

## Nicaragua presses offensive against CIA mercenaries



Sandinista armed forces have put U.S.-organized mercenaries on defensive. Nicaraguan Minister of Defense Humberto Ortega called for redoubled efforts against counterrevolutionaries.

BY BILL GREYTER

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "There are still more battles to wage," explained Nicaraguan Minister of Defense Humberto Ortega, "but the course is clear."

"We have been able to put the mercenaries on the defensive," he told the nation recently, referring to the CIA-sponsored counterrevolutionaries, who are waging war against Nicaragua. "Now we must redouble our efforts, carrying out an even bigger offensive against the enemy, to eliminate them completely."

At the same time, Ortega reported a series of new U.S. government war moves against Nicaragua.

At a press conference here November 12, Ortega presented the revolutionary government's analysis of the current stage of Nicaragua's efforts to defend itself against the U.S.-financed mercenaries, who attack the country from Honduras and Costa Rica. He repeated the evaluation that Sandinista leaders have made previously: the counterrevolutionary forces, or *contras*, have begun to suffer what the Sandinistas describe as a "strategic defeat." That is, they are unable to carry out coordinated campaigns to accomplish their military objectives.

But, Ortega stressed, the *contras* are still able to inflict serious damage. He cited as an example an attack November 10 that killed 30 militia volunteers, most of whom were from the capital city of Managua. The volunteers died near the town of Rama, defending the highway that connects Managua with Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast.

Ortega said the *contras* were incited to attack by a U.S. government propaganda campaign that claimed a Nicaraguan ship had arrived on the Atlantic Coast carrying guns from Cuba. Ortega rejected what he called "this giant uproar," describing it as an attempt to "cover up the agreement the United States has made to give more weapons to Honduras and the mercenaries."

The defense minister also rejected Washington's campaign to present Nicaragua's ties with Cuba as illegitimate. Nicaragua's foreign relations, he said, are based on the principle of national sovereignty.

"We don't have to give any explanations to the United States for the kind of relations we have decided to have" with Cuba, he added.

Ortega called on the Sandinista armed forces to keep their guard up — to follow through on the victories that have been won so far. The U.S. government, he said, knows that it "will never defeat the revolutionary government of Nicaragua with the mercenary forces." So, while Washington continues to finance the mercenaries, it is also looking for other ways to intervene against Nicaragua.

Ortega denounced five new aggressive actions by the U.S. government that have come to light in recent days:

- Nicaraguan security forces have confirmed that the U.S. government intends to give Honduras sophisticated fighter planes — possibly F-5s. No country in the region

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## Ga. Black farmer fights eviction

BY SARA JEAN JOHNSTON

COCHRAN, Georgia — "We got the sheriff to give me time," said Oscar Lorick, a 66-year-old Black Georgia farmer.

"My family has had this land since after the Civil War," Lorick told the *Militant*. "I was trusting in the banks. I made payments, and they didn't give me records."

On November 14 and 15, farm activists from Iowa, South Carolina, Missouri, and Oklahoma joined central Georgia farmers at Lorick's farm to stop Bleckley County Sheriff Ed Coley from evicting Lorick and his family. Many of the 50 to 60 farm activists there were veterans of the 1978 American Agriculture Movement (AAM) tractorcade to Washington, D.C. Lorick's sisters from Chicago and Atlanta were there to help their brother defend the family's land.

The protest resulted in Sheriff Coley, who had arrived without eviction papers,

## Winnie Mandela blasts U.S. support to racist regime

BY FRED FELDMAN

Winnie Mandela, a leader of the South African freedom struggle and the wife of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, has branded the U.S. government as a foe of the struggle against white minority rule.

Her statement was made public as the apartheid regime's cops announced November 18 that they had killed 14 more people during the previous two days. The slaughter — which has now taken more than 1,000 Black lives — is occurring under cover of a virtual ban on media coverage of Black protests.

Nine of the murders by the cops occurred in the town of Queensland, where Blacks protested a house-to-house search for anti-apartheid fighters. In the nearby township of Zwelitsha in the Ciskei, one of the so-called Bantustans, the cops killed a 13-year-old girl.

The Reagan administration, Mandela charged, "has taken the view that our liberation will be a setback to [the U.S.] sphere of influence."

The U.S. government, she said, "condemns us to 20th century slavery by echoing the programs of the racist regime."

Washington has refused to impose more than the most minimal sanctions against South Africa. The Reagan administration has recently further toned down its mild criticisms of the apartheid regime.

At the United Nations October 24, Reagan blasted the government of Angola, which is under military attack from South Africa. But he said not a word in criticism of apartheid.

Winnie Mandela is a symbol of resistance to apartheid. She has defied an order to return to Brandfort in Orange Free State province, the isolated town to which the government banished her in 1977.

Since her home in Brandfort was destroyed by arsonists in August she has divided her time between Soweto and Cape Town, where Nelson Mandela is imprisoned.

The U.S. big-business media has thus far gone along with the South African government's November 2 restrictions on news coverage. As a result, coverage has been reduced to a trickle in most U.S. newspapers and magazines. The coverage

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## S.F. plans MLK Day rally January 20

BY RAÚL GONZÁLEZ

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Labor Council, and a broad coalition of church and community groups, have announced that they will sponsor a major march and rally in this city on January 20 to commemorate the official beginning of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday.

The march will cap a week of events that will begin on January 15. The activities are being organized by the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance Committee. The Committee is chaired by Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church. Honorary chairpersons for the event are San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein, Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport, Senator Alan Cranston, and Congressman Ron Dellums. Members of the executive committee include San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt; Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council; Mattie Jackson, manager of the Pacific Northwest District Council of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Bob Morales, District 7 of the Teamsters union; and Jimmy Herman, president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union, as well as a large number of church and community leaders.

The march has been endorsed by the local chapters of the Free South Africa Movement.

The week's activities will begin with a January 15 Labor Breakfast honoring King, which will be held at the Masonic Auditorium. Hundreds of unionists are expected to attend.

In a front-page article in the November 8 edition of *Northern California Labor*,

Continued on Page 9

## Anglo-Irish pact backs British colonial rule in Northern Ireland

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The British and Irish governments have signed an agreement which maintains British colonial control of Northern Ireland while giving Dublin only a symbolic role in the affairs of that region.

It comes at a time when opposition to British rule in Northern Ireland is growing, and the Republic of Ireland is in an economic crisis.

The agreement, which was signed November 15, provides for a mechanism to allow the Dublin government to express its views on British policy there. This includes British security policies, army, police, courts, and prison system. Under this agreement, therefore, Dublin takes responsibility for British policy. It also commits Dublin to cooperate with London in rounding up opponents of British rule — known as Republicans — who try to cross the border to the south.

The agreement also establishes a secretariat made up of ministers from the Irish and British cabinets to promote trade and investments.

Although often described as a sectarian conflict between the Catholic minority and the Protestant majority, the social unrest and violence in Northern Ireland are products of British partition of that country.

Forced out of the south in 1920, the British government has continued to hold the six counties in the north as a colony. The British rulers have used repression and mil-

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# Labor's fight against apartheid popular at gates

BY DIANE ROLING

CHICAGO — Since September, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance here have been on a campaign to expand both weekly sales

events — we found there was considerable interest in coverage on the liberation struggle in South Africa.

As part of expanding our efforts to circulate the papers with the

The response we got to the coverage on South Africa there was the same as it was everywhere else. Unionists were eager to find out more about what is happening.

The issues of the *Militant* with headlines featuring labor's involvement in protesting the South African government were particularly easy to sell.

During the sales drive, we started two new plant-gate sales. The first was ITT, Bell and Gosssett, which is organized by the United Auto Workers (UAW). The other was at Hart, Schaffner, and Marx in Des Plaines, which is organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

To kick off sales at those plants,

we distributed the special supplement of the *Militant* that contained the South African Freedom Charter. We told workers that we would be back next week to discuss the socialist press with them.

On the return visit, we sold one copy of the *Militant* at one plant and four at the other.

During the sales drive we also got back to two other plants organized by the UAW that we hadn't sold at for a while. We wanted to make a special effort to discuss the Chrysler contract with auto workers. On our first visit, we sold three papers at Ford Torrence and four papers at Stanadyne.

We expect to continue to see a good response to our press as the

*Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* cover the inspiring efforts of Blacks building a powerful union movement in South Africa.

In Chicago we found that the *Militant's* coverage of labor's protests against the South African government have also helped stimulate political discussions on the job. So far seven subscriptions have been sold to our coworkers, including one at a plant where we carry out regular plant-gate sales.

The effort the Chicago SWP and YSA have mounted during the sales drive has shown us that there is increased receptivity to the socialist press. We want to use the momentum of the past few months to help us continue regular plant-gate sales.

## SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

and sales of subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Wherever we sold the papers — on campus, in the Black and Latino communities, at political meetings such as those held by Operation PUSH, or at solidarity

truth about the struggle against apartheid, Nicaragua's determined fight against the U.S.-backed mercenary war, and about important political developments in the United States, we decided to step up sales at the plant gates.

## New York 8+ victim convicted on 5 minor counts

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — New York 8+ defendant Colette Pean was brought to trial November 18. In a brief, one-day court session, Judge Robert Carter convicted her on five minor counts of making false statements and illegally purchasing and possessing two Uzi submachine guns. Pean will be sentenced January 16 together with the seven other defendants of the New York 8+, as they are known.

Pean's case was originally part of a 51-

count indictment charging the New York 8+ defendants with conspiring to rob banks and assist jail breaks. A jury acquitted seven of these political activists last August on the major charges of conspiracy, while finding them guilty of minor charges of possessing weapons and using false identification.

Colette Pean's case had been separated from the others several months ago when in the midst of the trial it was discovered that her court-appointed attorney was practicing law illegally.

ing law illegally.

The government's entire case against her was based solely on items seized in the October 1984 Joint Terrorist Task Force raids. These were carried out by hundreds of New York City cops and FBI agents against the New York 8+ defendants and their residences.

Acting as her own counsel, Pean explained that the government was focusing on these smaller charges because they had already lost on the major conspiracy convictions that they were really after. Her case, she said, and the entire New York 8+ trial arose from a massive government

conspiracy.

"The government is trying to criminalize political activities just like they have against voting rights activists [in the South] and by making it a crime not to testify before a grand jury," stated Pean.

For refusing to submit to the government's demands for a handwriting sample, Pean had spent the past three weeks incarcerated at Metropolitan Correctional Center on civil contempt charges. Upon conclusion of the trial, Pean was released.

The fight is not over. All supporters of democratic rights should continue organizing solidarity with these political activists.



New York 8+ defendants (clockwise from left) Colette Pean, Jose Rios, Roger Wareham, Viola Plummer, Omowale Clay, Ruth Carter, Yvette Kelley, and Robert Taylor.

## Ray Sparrow: a lifetime of struggle in workers' movement

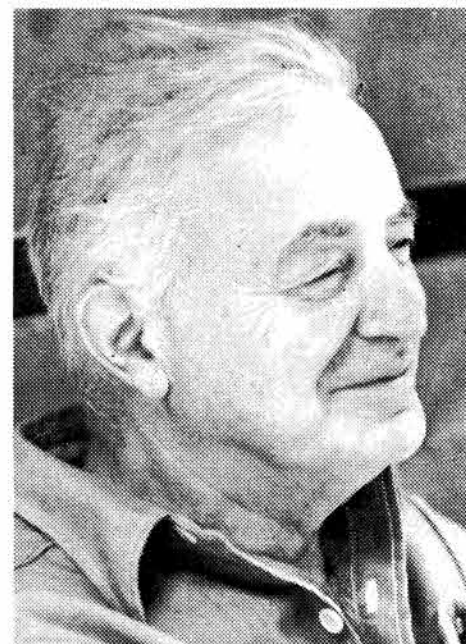
Ray Sparrow died of a heart attack at his home in Mill Valley, California, November 16. A veteran leader of the Socialist Workers Party and a revolutionary since his teens, he was known to many by his pen name, Art Sharon.

Sparrow was 70 years old and had been politically active for over 50 years. This included working in maritime unions on the East and West coasts of the United States.

His many important contributions included work in the building of the Fourth International. From 1965 to 1968 he lived in Europe and served as a fraternal member of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International. (Reactionary legislation bars the SWP from formal membership in the Fourth International.)

The SWP, to which Sparrow devoted his life, will organize a meeting in early December to celebrate his contributions to the workers' movement in the United States and internationally.

A coming issue of the *Militant* will carry details on the meeting and offer an appreciation of the life of this outstanding revolutionary.



Ray Sparrow listening to discussion at 1981 Socialist Workers Party convention in Oberlin, Ohio.

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### The Militant

Closing news date: November 20, 1985

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Published weekly except one week in August and the last week of December by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for airmail rates to all other countries.

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# Gordon sentenced in 'vote fraud' case

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Spiver Gordon, a Eutaw, Alabama, city councilman, a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the only one of eight elected officials and political activists to be convicted in the recent wave of federal "vote fraud" trials, was sentenced in federal court here November 14 by U.S. District Judge E.B. Halpom, Jr.

The sentencing came nearly a month after Gordon's October 16 conviction by an all-white jury on two counts of mail fraud and two counts of providing false information to election officials in connection with 12 absentee ballots cast during the September 1984 Democratic Party primary and runoff in Greene County.

The jury acquitted Gordon of 14 of the 21 counts against him and had been declared deadlocked on three of the charges. It reached a guilty verdict on the four counts only after Judge Halpom repeatedly refused the results of its deliberations.

The more than 100 supporters of Gordon who had rallied outside Birmingham federal court before the start of the proceedings were present at the trial.

Halpom delivered a long introductory speech depicting himself as a champion of the fight for Black rights and the courts as a decisive battleground on which that fight was fought.

Halpom then sentenced Gordon to three years on each count, suspending all but six months of the sentence. Gordon was also fined a total of \$1,000 and ordered to perform 500 hours of community service work.

In addition, Halpom directed that the six months in custody be served at a community treatment center as near as possible to Tuscaloosa. This would be followed by a three-year probation.

Gordon was allowed to go free on \$1,000 bond and to begin serving his sentence in January.

Attorneys for Gordon immediately filed a notice of appeal. Halpom responded by acknowledging "the very significant issues that deserve attention by the 11th circuit court of appeals, grave issues of law."

One of those issues is the conduct of U.S. attorneys during the jury selection process. They deliberately used all their allotted challenges to eliminate Blacks from the jury.

## Radical group faces attack on rights

The Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) of Seattle recently filed motions in King County Superior Court and the Washington State Court of Appeals seeking to reverse a court order requiring the organization to hand over minutes of internal meetings to a disaffected former member who is suing the group.

The FSP Superior Court motion was supported by Ruperta Alexis-Caldwell of the National Conference of Black Lawyers and Philip Burton of the NAACP. They submitted affidavits discussing the ramifications such action would have on organizations advocating racial equality.

Alexis-Caldwell told the court that requiring minutes would be used by racists and other right-wingers to disrupt organizations whose aims they oppose.

Burton said in his affidavit that the NAACP has often been the target of "abusive discovery tactics" by parties seeking "membership lists, minutes, and financial records as a way to disrupt the organization's activities, deprive it of financial support, and expose its members and supporters to harassment and reprisals."

Burton and Alexis-Caldwell were joined by the presidents of two public employee unions in opposing the court order. Mike Kearney of Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) Local 435 and Luke Leung of WFSE Local 843 submitted affidavits expressing their concern that the court's decision to force disclosure of FSP minutes could stifle democratic proceedings within their unions.

The trial was slated to begin November 18. The plaintiff, Richard Shedigar, is seeking the return of a \$22,500 donation that he, with the help of others, made to a Freedom Socialist special fund.

The trial of Gordon and his codefendant, Frederick Daniels, was the only one of these so-called vote fraud cases to be tried by an all-white jury.

Another issue in the case is the conduct of Judge Halpom himself, who refused to allow the jury, on one occasion, to declare itself deadlocked after five days of deliberations. On another occasion, he refused to accept the jury's verdict with a recommendation for clemency attached to it.

Also at issue is the character of the absentee election laws in Alabama and of the long-standing widespread practice of proxy voting in Greene and other counties.

Most importantly, a number of Black leaders have pointed to the selective character of the U.S. Justice Department's investigation and prosecution in the so-called vote fraud cases in Alabama's Black Belt.

Gordon is one of eight people recently indicted by the Justice Department as part of this investigation. Five of those indicted were acquitted by the juries sitting in their cases.

Two of those indicted, Bessie Underwood and James Colvin, mayor of Union, Alabama, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges.

On the steps of Birmingham's federal courthouse, after the sentencing procedures, Gordon and his supporters gathered in a demonstration of solidarity and determination to continue to fight for justice in his case.



Militant/Katy Karlin  
Greene County Five outside federal courthouse. Left to right, Spiver Gordon, Bessie Underwood, James Colvin, Bobbie Nell Simpson, Frederick Daniels.

## Six cities over top in sales drive

BY PAT GROGAN

As the *Militant* goes to press we are very close to making our goal of selling 40,000 single issues in the course of the drive.

Last week was a real shot in the arm. Our press received an excellent reception at the November 9 labor-led anti-apartheid march in Newark, New Jersey, which helped make this one of our best weeks so far. Sales at the action helped boost New York's weekly total to more than 500 single issues and subscriptions and the Newark total to more than 400.

In all, we sold 4,615 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* last week. This puts us at a total of 35,979 single issues sold so far — just 21 copies short of where we should be.

Some branches of the Socialist Workers Party put on a real push and went over their goals a week early: Greensboro, Kansas City, Morgantown, Phoenix, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

And most branches are within striking distance of their goals.

Last week was also one of the highest for subscription sales — 167 people subscribed to the *Militant*, and 25 to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

With the sales campaign coming to a close, it's a good time to give extra thought and attention to people who may be interested in subscribing.

In Newark, the branch sales committee came up with a list of people we have met throughout the fall who've shown an interest in reading the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial* regularly. Branch and Young Socialist Alliance members are making that extra effort to give them a call, invite them to the next *Militant* Labor Forum, and ask them to get a subscription.

Socialist workers on the job are also giving special attention to potential subscribers. Many people who at other times only

showed an occasional interest — or no interest — in reading the socialist press, now have become involved, or are affected by the anti-apartheid movement and other political activity, and want to know what's happening in South Africa. Many are now interested in following events in Central America, developments in the unions, the struggle for abortion rights — politics in general.

The next issue of the *Militant* will carry the final sales scoreboard. The *Militant* will publish on Wednesday next week —

one day early because of the Thanksgiving holiday. So, be sure to call us on Monday with your final results.

The scoreboard so far has only listed those areas that took goals for the sales drive. But many *Militant* and *PM* supporters who didn't take goals have also been selling the socialist press. So, give us a call, and let us know what you've sold, so we can include your good work in the total picture of the circulation campaign. The number of the *Militant* business office is (212) 929-3486.

## SALES SCOREBOARD

(Week #9: Totals as of Militant issue #44, PM issue #22)

Area	SINGLE ISSUES		SUBSCRIPTIONS
	Sold this week Militant/PM	% of 10-week goal reached	Sold so far Militant/PM
Atlanta	106/2	83	37/0
Baltimore	89/1	85	44/1
Birmingham	90/0	93	29/0
Boston	54/8	69	24/10
Capital District, N.Y.	44/5	78	34/2
Charleston, W. Va.	21/0	42	15/0
Chicago	59/1	87	60/1
Cincinnati	41/0	93	19/0
Cleveland	103/0	88	12/0
Dallas	122/57	89	36/6
Denver	68/5	81	37/1
Detroit	101/0	68	66/3
Greensboro, N.C.	147/0	101	47/2
Houston	102/21	75	75/4
Kansas City	184/6	159	15/2
Los Angeles	157/37	98	66/21
Louisville	50/0	88	19/0
Miami	70/6	76	26/3
Milwaukee	32/0	79	22/4
Morgantown, W. Va.	87/0	101	9/0
New Orleans	18/2	59	39/1
New York	479/34	61	68/2
Newark	379/23	79	66/13
Oakland	96/50	93	36/12
Philadelphia	135/4	85	24/4
Phoenix	162/52	112	14/21
Pittsburgh	98/0	75	10/1
Portland	85/10	79	18/0
Price, Utah	9/0	46	7/0
Salt Lake City	25/0	91	22/3
San Diego	56/7	94	32/4
San Francisco	133/80	101	44/15
San Jose	132/26	81	42/16
Seattle	64/1	79	26/4
St. Louis	91/0	66	36/0
Tidewater, Va.	43/0	94	16/0
Toledo	95/3	92	59/3
Twin Cities	267/8	91	64/6
Washington D.C.	41/13	120	38/11
Total sold this week	4,153/462		
Total sold to date	32,209/3,770		1,353/176
10-week goal	40,000		2,000
Percent of national goal reached	90%		76%
To be on schedule	90%		90%

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# Publication Fund surpasses \$125,000 goal

BY FRED FELDMAN

A big victory was scored in the \$125,000 Socialist Publication Fund!

The emergency campaign in the last weeks to complete the fund met with an overwhelming response. As of the November 18 deadline, \$138,000 was collected, \$13,000 over our goal.

This victory was made possible by the extra effort of *Militant* readers and other supporters of the socialist publications. During the last two weeks, hundreds of people pitched in to make the fund "in full and on time." They increased their pledges or made pledges for the first time. Supporters of the fund across the country organized a concerted effort to collect almost all the money that was pledged by the final day.

A special boost was given by the over 80 subscribers of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Intercontinental Press* who responded to a fund appeal in the mail. Together they contributed nearly \$4,000!

All told, over \$80,000 was collected in the last two weeks of the fund drive — a truly impressive effort.

The outcome is good news for the *Militant*, the biweekly Spanish language *Perspectiva Mundial*, the biweekly world news magazine *Intercontinental Press*, the Marxist quarterly *New International*, and

Pathfinder Press books and pamphlets.

It means these publications will be able to maintain their day-to-day operations, and to make further advances in reaching the growing numbers who are beginning to move into action around issues like opposition to apartheid and who are now thinking more deeply about many political questions.

The focal points of the closing days of the fundraising effort were the rallies held in a dozen cities on the weekend of November 16-17. Supporters of the socialist publications gathered to celebrate their role in getting out the truth about the anti-apartheid movement and other struggles and to help in pushing the fund over the top.

A featured speaker at the rally held in St. Paul, Minnesota, was Vernon Bellecourt, a leader of the American Indian Movement. He discussed the struggle of Indians in Minnesota against the plunder of their land. And he spoke out against the efforts to turn Indians in the United States against the Nicaraguan revolution.

"I've traveled around the world to many countries and continents," Bellecourt said, "and I can't emphasize enough the important work of Pathfinder, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Militant*. Anything I can do, including to help raise money for these causes, I'm happy to do."

Lynn Huston, vice-president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9, thanked those at the St. Paul rally for their consistent support to the union in the strike forced on it by the Hormel Co. packing-house.

This is one of the important confrontations going on today between the union movement and the big-business union busters.

More than \$4,000 was collected for the Socialist Publication Fund in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

More than \$850 in new pledges was raised at the rally in Dallas. Diane Wang, coauthor of the Pathfinder pamphlet, "Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea," was the featured speaker. She discussed the efforts of the *Militant* and other socialist publications to get out the truth about the U.S. war in Indochina, and contrasted it to the prowar propaganda of the capitalist media.

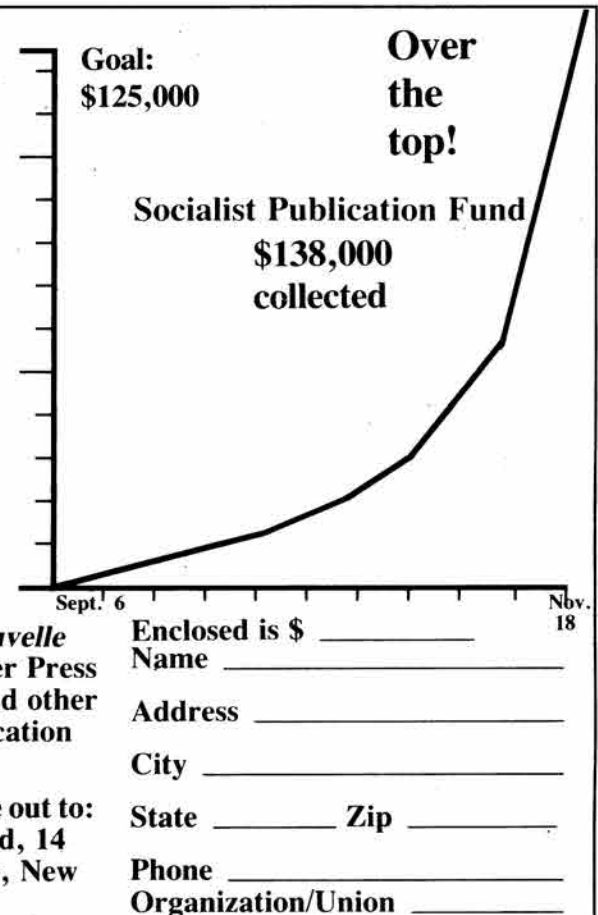
A highlight of this rally was the message hailing the socialist publications from Rev. Prince V. Ntintili, a South African active in the U.S. anti-apartheid movement.

The Detroit rally was chaired by Helen

In the September 6 issue of the *Militant*, we announced the launching of the Socialist Publication Fund with the goal of raising \$125,000.

The purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant*, our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Intercontinental Press*, the Marxist quarterly *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, Pathfinder Press books and pamphlets, and other important socialist publication projects.

Checks should be made out to: Socialist Publication Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.



## UAW member: 'Militant' tells truth

The following message from Dennis Koncewicz addressed to *Militant* editor Malik Miah, was read to the Socialist Publication Fund rally held November 16 in Detroit. Miah was a featured speaker at the rally.

Koncewicz is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1200, which just ended an eight-week strike at General Dynamics. He attended the rally.

Welcome to Detroit. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you and the staff of the *Militant* for your perseverance in presenting to the farmers and workers of this country a chance to read the real truth, which is so badly needed in these troubled times.

I've only been reading the *Militant* since January of this year. I'll be the first to admit being a bit of a skeptic concerning the truth of some of the articles that have appeared. But that was mainly because of so many years of reading the local newspapers. One tends not to believe everything that's printed is true.

Also, after listening to various SWP members about their trips abroad and involvement in various strikes, and after attending a few forums, what they had said, and what was printed in the *Militant* eased my mind that this wasn't just another, ordinary newspaper that tends to twist, distort, and tell outright lies. On the recent strike against General Dynamics, the local newspapers printed some really outlandish bullshit, whereas the *Militant* articles contained nothing but the facts!

Also, I've learned a great deal about the ruthlessness of this country and its foreign policy. The corporations here and abroad are both willing to exploit anyone or any country. Only the *Militant* will expose these crimes factually.

To sum it all up, Mr. Miah, you and the staff at the *Militant* are doing what no one else dares to, that is, educating the people on topics that other forms of the media just skim over, or just brush aside. Once again, thank you, and when you get back to New York, tell the staff that there are people across this country who really appreciate their efforts.

Also, I will contribute an additional \$500 to the Publication Fund.

### Labor News

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

## Pact backs British rule in N. Ireland

Continued from front page

itary occupation to try to halt the ongoing struggle for an independent, united Ireland.

Under the November 15 agreement, the Irish government for the first time accepted British colonial rule over part of Ireland. In exchange for this concession, Dublin will be able to express its opinion on the systematic discrimination carried out by the British and their supporters against the nationalist population in the north. Catholics, who comprise the bulk of the nationalists, make up 40 percent of the

population in the north.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald hope this agreement will convince the Catholic minority that it can have equality under British rule. They also hope to undermine the growing support among the oppressed for the revolutionary forces in the Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Army, which are leading the struggle for a united Ireland.

The British and Irish governments portray the agreement as a step toward peace in the region. But by maintaining British rule, the agreement guarantees continuing repression and instability. On November 17, two days after the agreement was

signed, London papers reported that 9,000 British troops were on standby for duty in Northern Ireland.

President Ronald Reagan hailed the agreement as "a promise of peace." As a reward for FitzGerald's role in this sellout of the Irish nation, Reagan has promised aid to Ireland's flagging economy. Democratic Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill also hailed the agreement, calling it a "courageous" step toward reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Martin McGuinness, a leader of Sinn Féin, denounced the agreement and characterized the accords as "devices that enable Britain to refine its repression of Republicans and partition of Ireland."



New York 1981 protest in solidarity with Irish struggle demanded end of British rule in Northern Ireland.

## Labor backs Watsonville strike

Continued from back page

Luis Bustamante also spoke. He is secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 748 in Modesto, California, which represents 20,000 Teamsters, some of whom also work in the food-processing plants there. Two of these companies, Patterson Frozen Foods and United Foods, have extended their contracts six months to see if the Watsonville processors can drive down wages, gut the contract, and drive out the union. This is one reason the stakes are high for all labor in this strike.

After the rally, everyone enjoyed Mexican food, music, and traditional dances. Then, in place of the march that had been canceled due to the rain, a car caravan circled through town and passed the two struck canneries. Everyone waved flags, wore union hats, beeped their horns, and

shouted encouragement to the pickets in a militant show of solidarity.

César Chávez, president of the United Farm Workers, had visited the picket lines earlier in the week and met with strikers to tell them he is going to open up the entire grape boycott network to help gain solidarity for the striking frozen-food workers. He also warned the companies that the farm workers would halt production in the fields if the companies did not negotiate in good faith.

In the ninth week of the strike, with strike benefits of \$55 a week, a primary concern is feeding the 1,700-strikers and their families, as well as stopping evictions from their homes.

Food and contributions may be sent to: Teamsters Local 912, 163 West Lake Ave., Watsonville, Calif. 95076.



# Houston SWP candidate spoke in interests of workers, oppressed

BY PETE SEIDMAN

HOUSTON — On November 5, incumbent Democratic Mayor Kathryn Whitmire won reelection to a third term by a 20 percent margin. Whitmire, and her most-publicized opponent, former mayor Louie Welch, spent some \$1.3 million each in their bids to become mayor of the country's fourth-largest city.

Despite all the publicity this money bought, neither candidate offered any idea as to how the hard-pressed working people of Houston could regain the thousands of jobs lost here since the downturn in the oil industry several years ago — or deal with the many other urgent problems of Houston's Black, Chicano, and Asian communities.

Instead, Welch — who quit his job as president of the chamber of commerce after the defeat of a gay rights referendum here in January — hoped he could ride back into City Hall on a wave of antigay bigotry.

He claimed the main issue in the campaign was "morality." Even the city's economic development, he argued, depended on ending a moral climate here that was repulsive to big business.

This right-wing rhetoric was echoed by a self-proclaimed "straight slate" of six city council candidates organized to oust those incumbents who had favored putting the January gay rights referendum on the ballot.

The majority of working people here who voted did not agree that antigay "morality" was the central issue in this election.

In addition to Welch, all but one of the "straight slate" candidates were defeated.

Welch's notion of "morality" gained national notoriety when he quipped on a live TV news show (claiming he thought his microphone was turned off) that part of his

solution to the problem of AIDS was to "shoot the queers."

Many people in Houston's Black community found little to laugh at in Welch's words — which underscored the deeper racist and reactionary sentiments behind his antigay campaign.

"Welch often doesn't joke when he talks about shooting," said Rev. William Lawson of the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. "I remember a time Louie Welch made statements about shooting, not with words, but with actions. Some of us stood outside at Texas Southern University as his police fired 15,000 rounds of ammunition into the dormitories."

Lawson was referring to a May 1967 police attack in which Welch's hated, racist Police Chief Herman Short organized an attack in which 500 students were arrested on the mainly Black campus.

Socialist Workers Party candidate Willie Mae Reid offered an alternative that put the interests of working people and the Black, Chicano, and Asian communities ahead of big-business profits. Reid, who works at Shell Oil and is a member of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union Local 4-367, tirelessly explained throughout her campaign that Whitmire offered no real alternative to Welch's reactionary campaign.

Whitmire's major bid for Black support was that she had appointed a Black police chief and some 80 other Blacks to high posts in her administration.

But, Reid noted, these appointments have done nothing to solve the problems of the masses of Blacks in the city. These include serious cuts in health services, inhumane urban relocation policies, and growing hunger for those Houstonians who cannot find work.



Willie Mae Reid (second from left), SWP candidate for mayor of Houston, at October 12 Free South Africa demonstration.

Reid made the demand for total divestment of Houston city funds from South Africa a central issue in her campaign. She played an active role in the coalition that built a demonstration of 700 people here on October 12 as part of national actions against apartheid. Reid testified before the city council, chaired by Whitmire, as part of protests demanding a city permit for this demonstration. The Whitmire administration refused to grant the permit until faced with a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Whitmire also refused to stand up to Welch's incitement to antigay violence, Reid explained. The socialist candidate blasted the mayor for stating that the issue of gay rights had been "settled" by the de-

feat of the January rights referendum and that it was time to "move on" to other issues.

At a well-attended campaign forum on "The Fight for Democratic Rights in Houston," Reid said the struggle for gay rights must continue 365 days a year. "Rights can never be voted away," she insisted.

One of the campaign issues Whitmire was proudest of was her drive to slash the wages paid city construction workers by \$21 million next year.

This union-busting stand of Whitmire led the Harris County AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, which had supported her in previous elections, not to endorse any mayoral candidate in this campaign.

In contrast to Welch and Whitmire, the Socialist Workers Party campaign said Houston needs to become a "union town."

Because the media gave scant attention to the only Black and trade union candidate on the mayoral ballot, Reid supporters had to rely on aggressive campaigning to spread word of the socialist alternative.

This included sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as use of sound trucks and literature tables.

City officials report that despite a virtual media blockade, these kinds of efforts resulted in 398 votes being counted for the socialist alternative.

One highlight was a campaign appearance at a Rice Festival in Winnie, Texas, where farmers bought 18 copies of the *Militant*.

Reid also spoke at numerous community candidates' forums and on two televised "minor" candidates' debates. Many attended a successful open house for her after the October 12 demonstration and one on election night as well.

## S.F.: Stop initiative to cut abortion funds

BY DIANA CANTÚ

SAN FRANCISCO — "We are not going to go back. We are not going to accept a system that discriminates against low-income women, that makes abortion a privilege for those who can afford it, not a right for all women. The time for us to act to protect abortion rights is now."

The speaker was Ellen Greenberg, a representative of the Campaign to Defend Reproductive Rights (CDRR). She was addressing an abortion rights rally here in San Francisco's Union Square November 9.

The rally attracted about 250 supporters for a noisy demonstration of support for women's rights. Protesters carried signs saying "A woman's life is a human life" and "Keep your laws off my body," along with other slogans supporting women's

right to control their bodies.

Alice Wolfson, codirector of the CDRR, talked about the so-called "Children's Fund" ballot initiative antiabortion forces are petitioning to get on the June ballot in California. This initiative would virtually eliminate funding of abortions for low-income women. She pointed to how the initiative cynically counterposes the health of women to that of handicapped children. The initiative calls for "redirecting" state abortion funding to provide care for handicapped children. She called on all present to join the fight against the initiative.

The rally was organized by the CDRR and cosponsored by a number of other groups, including the Northern California Pro-Choice Coalition, California Abortion Rights Action League, the National Organization for Women, the Action Committee on Abortion Rights, Planned Parenthood, and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Several groups had contingents and tables at the demonstration, and many participants came from beyond the San Francisco Bay Area.

Rally speakers included Carmen Vasquez from Somos Hermanas, a group in solidarity with the women of Central America. Vasquez talked about the important gains women have made in Nicaragua since the Sandinista revolution. She also explained how women in Central America are advancing the fight for women's liberation while playing an important role in the struggle for the liberation of their countries.

Dorothy Ehrlich, executive director of the ACLU for Northern California, said the right to abortion was one of the most fragile of rights and one of the most important to defend.

Jerrie Meadows, from the board of directors of the California Abortion Rights Action League, told the crowd about her illegal abortion, and said, "Women have always had abortions; the question is whether they'll be safe and legal."

Entertainment was provided by feminist singer Hunter Davis and one of the "Ladies

Against Women," a satirical group who perform political comedy aimed at the hypocrisy of the "right to life" antiabortion movement.

At the end of the rally, the crowd, using noisemakers and anything else at hand, loudly demonstrated their support for abortion rights and released colored balloons into the sky over downtown San Francisco to symbolize spreading that message.

Bay Area abortion rights activists will be participating in a demonstration in Sacramento January 22, celebrating the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision, which legalized abortion in 1973. For more information contact San Francisco NOW, P.O. Box 1267, San Francisco, California, 94101, or call (415) 386-4232.

## 1,000 at L.A. action for pay equity

BY JAN ARAGON

LOS ANGELES — "Together against discrimination" was the main slogan of a noontime rally of some 1,000 people on November 1 at Pershing Square here. The rally was called to support a lawsuit that has been filed against Los Angeles County demanding pay equity for minorities and women employed by the county.

The demonstration was jointly called by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the National Organization for Women (NOW), the NAACP, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

The rally was attended by union members and leaders throughout the county. The largest group came from the three locals that initiated the suit against Los Angeles County — SEIU locals 399, 660, and 535. They organized buses for their membership and arranged to get them time off work.

There were four speakers: SEIU President John Sweeney, Antonia Hernandez from MALDEF, Eleanor Smeal, president of NOW, and Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the NAACP.

Mayor Tom Bradley made introductory remarks welcoming the rally participants and pledging his support for the suit. The City of Los Angeles has recently settled some pay equity demands, and the mayor has endorsed the suit against Los Angeles County.

Sweeney focused on the historic importance of the suit. Hernandez spoke about the fact that the majority of county residents are Black, Latino, and Asian, stressed the need for joint action. Smeal stressed the need for activism, and pledged NOW's support for pay equity. Hooks outlined the importance of joint community and union interests and the need to work together to win justice.

The rally was held the day after the close of the AFL-CIO national convention. Some of the convention participants attended the rally.

Placards, banners, and balloons, which read, "Together against discrimination," filled the rally site. Participating unions included the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and the California State Employees Association.

## Convention of 3,000 Spanish women defies abortion restrictions

Nearly 3,000 Spanish feminists, meeting in Barcelona the first weekend in November, voted to take "decisively courageous" action to protest the inadequacies of Spain's new abortion law.

The law, which went into effect last August, limits abortion to cases in which pregnancy is the result of rape, the fetus is malformed, or when there is danger to the woman. Previously, all abortions were illegal.

In defiance of the law, leaders of the women's rights convention announced to loud cheers that medical technicians had performed two abortions in a conference room adjoining the convention. Neither of the abortions met the requirements of the law.

Almost all of the convention participants signed confessions taking responsibility for having performed the illegal abortions.

Since the abortion law was passed last August, only 20 legal abortions were recorded as of early October.



# Nicaragua offensive

Continued from front page

now has these planes. Honduras has been trying to get them since 1981 and has been training pilots for them since 1984.

- Washington has also decided to give the mercenary forces high-speed fighter boats known as "piranhas." From bases in Honduras, the boats will be used to attack the northern part of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, in particular the town of Puerto Cabezas.

- Secret Honduran government documents also reveal that in May of this year, the U.S. Air Force decided to establish a joint military base in Palmerola, Honduras. For the next five years, the base will be staffed by U.S. officers and will have "a high degree of military readiness."

- The sophisticated U.S. spy ship, the USS *Sphinx* (ARL-24), is now in the waters of the Pacific off the coast of Nicaragua.



Militant

Nicaragua's defense minister, Humberto Ortega.

gua. The ship is designed to spy on Sandinista military communications, create interference, and serve as a command center to direct counterrevolutionary aerial operations. Formerly a less sophisticated landing-craft repair ship, the vessel was refitted recently at a cost of \$20 million.

- Washington is planning the latest in a long string of joint military maneuvers in Honduras. Three separate series of maneuvers are planned for the coming year. The first will begin in January 1986.

## No choice but to arm

Faced with these actions by the U.S. government, Ortega said, and faced with its refusal to negotiate seriously, Nicaragua has no alternative but to maintain a strong defense. "What else can our people do," he asked, "except prepare ourselves to confront the military plans that the United States is now engineering, given the continuing failure of their grand scheme with the mercenaries?"

"In the coming months, and the coming year," the Sandinista armed forces "do not propose to cut back by a single millimeter

— not by one soldier, or one officer, or one rifle — from the current level that has allowed us to begin the strategic defeat of the enemy." On the contrary, the Sandinistas intend to continue to strengthen and consolidate the revolutionary armed forces, Ortega said.

The defense minister also accused the U.S. government of attempting to sabotage the Contadora initiative. Aggressive actions by Washington in the region, he asserted, show that the U.S. government has never tried in good faith to advance the Contadora process.

The Contadora Group is made up of the governments of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela. The group's stated goal is to achieve a political settlement to the military conflict in Central America by drafting a treaty to be signed by all the governments in the region. Nicaragua agreed to sign a version of the treaty a year ago, but the treaty was rejected by U.S. allies in the region. A revised version of the treaty is now under discussion.

## President Ortega's letter to Contadora

The day before Humberto Ortega spoke, President Daniel Ortega released a letter he had sent to the presidents of nations in the Contadora Group and its Support Group (Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay).

His letter extensively documented the attacks Nicaragua has suffered from the U.S. government and repeated Nicaragua's determination to continue defending itself.

"Nicaragua has long maintained," President Ortega wrote, "that the solution to the conflict in the region necessarily requires an understanding by the United States to put an end to its brutal war of aggression against the Nicaraguan people."

And on the same theme, he quoted his statement before the United Nations. "There is no document that will be effective in Central America," he said, "unless the U.S. rulers stop the aggression — direct, indirect, undercover, or whatever."

## Justice is on our side

Troop strength and armament levels are among the disputed issues in the Contadora negotiations. On this subject, President Ortega explained that for his country "it would not be possible to make a commitment on arms reduction and control, as long as the basic minimum conditions do not exist to guarantee the security of Nicaragua." Such conditions, he said, cannot exist when U.S. government officials talk openly about the direct use of U.S. troops to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

"Justice and reason are clearly on the side of Nicaragua," President Ortega wrote to Latin American heads of state, "when we insist on the right to provide ourselves with whatever we need for our defense."

Nicaragua maintains a similar position with regard to foreign military maneuvers in Central America, another issue in dis-



Barricada

Young draftees of Nicaragua's Patriotic Military Service. Inability of contras to mount offensive against Sandinista forces permits Nicaragua to demobilize first wave of recruits who joined army two years ago. United States hoped to create military situation that would force their reenlistment.

pute in the current negotiations. "Conditions of peace and security will not exist," President Ortega wrote, "as long as there is a military presence by the United States in the region, threatening the security of my country. Consequently, Nicaragua strongly favors an absolute prohibition of the international military maneuvers that have been a threat and an intimidation against Nicaragua." President Ortega pointed out that this position is in agreement both with Contadora's original Statement of Purpose, and with the 1984 version of the treaty.

The current version of the treaty, however, bows to pressure from U.S. allies in Central America in proposing only to restrict maneuvers to 3,000 soldiers for 15 days per year and to prohibit maneuvers when the prescribed limit of military development is reached. It also mandates that maneuvers cannot be of an "intimidating character."

But even this is too much for the governments of El Salvador and Honduras, which oppose prohibition of foreign military maneuvers. That's because the only foreign military maneuvers in the region are the ones being carried out by Washington in cooperation with Honduras and El Salvador.

The Honduran government goes further, proposing that the restrictions should limit maneuvers to "only" 5,000 troops for up to 90 days per year. Furthermore, the Honduran government opposes the paragraph prohibiting intimidating maneuvers.

## On schedule with the SMP

In the coming weeks, the Sandinista army will begin to release the first contingent of young men from the Patriotic Military Service (SMP). They were drafted two years ago when the SMP was established. Demobilizing these recruits on schedule is

also a victory for Nicaragua, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega pointed out.

"In the context of the consolidation of the nation's defense," he said, "we will now proceed to demobilize the first contingents of SMP youth, since by the end of November, or the beginning of December, they will have completed their two years of active military service." These youth, returning from the mountains with more confidence and more consciousness, are sure to strengthen the revolutionary process. Other young men have already been recruited to replace them.

"What does this demobilization mean for the Nicaraguan people, the government, and the army?" Ortega asked.

"It demonstrates the responsibility and seriousness of the Nicaraguan government in its plans to defend the nation," he answered. "It demonstrates the stability of those plans, which not only mobilized the young men who are now completing their military service, but at the same time also guarantees their release by other contingents who have now been mobilized and trained."

According to Ortega, the contras had hoped to prevent this. "The United States, through its mercenary forces, wanted to make sure that, by November 1985, the revolutionary government would not have the strength and stability to guarantee this process of demobilization and replacement. So the demobilization symbolizes the success of the people of Nicaragua pushing aside the U.S. efforts to create disorder and anarchy," he said.

## The high cost of defense

Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrión drew attention November 8 to the high cost of this military effort. Carrión was the speaker at an event commemorating the 24th anniversary of the founding of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the ninth anniversary of the death of its founder, Carlos Fonseca.

He recalled the long and bitter struggle to defeat the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship, which ruled Nicaragua until 1979. While pointing to gains that working people have made, he acknowledged that the country continues to face serious difficulties. Shortages, inflation, and a decline in the standard of living are the results of the war of aggression against Nicaragua, Carrión said.

The revolution, he observed, is still struggling for survival. It is unable to accomplish all its goals and is at times forced to cut back on health and education programs to devote more resources to the military effort.

"But we are completely convinced," he said, "that mobilization for defense today is the guarantee of the future economic and social development of the country."

Carrión defined the coffee harvest as the nation's big campaign, calling on all Nicaraguans to participate enthusiastically. Coffee is the country's leading source of foreign exchange income. "This new battle, which is a vital part of the defense of the revolution," will be fought in more favorable conditions this year than before, Carrión said, because the mercenary forces have suffered crippling blows in the major coffee-growing regions.

# 'IP' reports on Israeli repression

Since late summer the Israeli regime has been tightening its hold on the 1.3 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A combination of new repressive legislation, press censorship, and violent attacks by Israeli soldiers and settlers is being used to curb rising militancy among the oppressed Arab population in the territories occupied in 1967.

An article by Steve Craine in the December 2 issue of *Intercontinental Press* examines the background to this crackdown — the continuing theft of Arab land and apartheid-like restrictions on workers, farmers, and merchants, as well as the role of Israel's defeat in southern Lebanon in inspiring the Palestinian masses to resist occupation.

Also featured in the new issue of *IP* are excerpts from three short speeches by Fidel Castro welcoming the visits to Cuba of three African heads of state.

In these talks, which were addressed to African students on Cuba's Isle of Youth, Castro fo-

cused on the international fight against apartheid.

At the rally for Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Castro stated, "It is not enough that the mercenaries who serve South Africa be defeated in Angola and Mozambique. As long as apartheid exists in South Africa, it will be a danger to all the peoples of southern Africa."

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# Chilean dictatorship rocked by protests

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The wave of popular demonstrations that have rocked the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet in recent months is in protest not only against the repression, but also against the misery the Chilean people suffer today. During the last several years, Chile has been submerged in a grave economic crisis that hits working people the hardest.

One-third of Chile's 12 million people are unemployed or underemployed, with monthly wages that range between the equivalent of \$2 and \$60.

The real wages of the working class today are half what they were 10 years ago. Calorie and protein consumption have been reduced by 20 and 29 percent respectively. Soup kitchens have sprung up in the working-class neighborhoods.

How can this happen in a country as rich in natural resources as Chile?

Pinochet came to power after the 1973 military coup orchestrated by the United States government, which wanted the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende overthrown. The armed forces assassinated Allende and thousands of workers, farmers, and students throughout the country.

Allende's government, which had been elected in 1970, responded to the massive popular upsurge that accompanied his elec-

tion by implementing several progressive measures that included nationalization of the copper mines and 200 foreign companies, an agrarian reform program, and increases in workers' wages.

After violently crushing the workers' and peasants' upsurge, Pinochet moved to overturn the measures implemented by Allende's government. During the first years of his regime, Pinochet instituted an economic program that was praised by bankers and government officials in the United States as an "economic miracle." The "miracle" only benefited the multinational companies at the expense of Chilean workers.

Another factor that contributed to the deterioration of the economic situation in the country was the low price of copper on the international market. Chile is the world's largest exporter of copper. The price Chile gets for copper on the world market today is half what it was in 1980.

Like the rest of the world's underdeveloped countries, the prices of Chilean goods on the world market have dropped, while the prices the country has to pay for its imports have been rising.

The economic policies of the current government, and the deteriorating prices of Chilean goods, have contributed to a growth in Chile's large foreign debt. Chile owes banks in the imperialist countries

more than \$20 billion. This makes Chile one of the most indebted nations in the world. Its debt amounts to almost \$2,000 per inhabitant, and is 15 percent higher than its yearly gross national product.

In 1984, Chile's exports came to \$3.86 billion. This year Chile must make interest payments on the debt that come to more than \$4 billion.

Luis Aravena Azocar, representative of the Socialist Party of Chile at the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Dialogue held in Havana, Cuba, in September, described the situation this way: "My country cannot pay so much money. That is why the government, with the approval of the banks, had to 'renegotiate' [the foreign debt], getting itself even deeper into debt and limiting the economy to such levels that it impedes our development, increasing the suffering of our people, lowering the level of consumption of the population, and freezing wages at their 1981 level."

While the regime imposes the measures that the International Monetary Fund is demanding as terms for granting new loans, Pinochet has also increased military spending. In 1984 alone, Chile spent \$2 billion on military goods. This military hardware is primarily used to repress the Chilean people and to promote the interests of the United States in the region.

But the Chilean people have not re-

mained quiet. Today their struggle against the Pinochet dictatorship is on the rise. In September and October, trade unions, student groups, women's groups, and other sectors of the population organized massive national protests.

Widespread protests again jarred Chile in early November. Thousands demonstrated in the capital city of Santiago and in eight other cities on November 5 and 6. High on the list of demands was the call for the release of six union leaders who have been in jail since September. The unionists have been on a well-publicized hunger strike.

Pinochet responded to the actions by killing four of the protesters, wounding scores more, and arresting at least 750 people. A Catholic church agency also reported that 29 opposition figures were hustled into internal exile in villages in the northern part of the country.

The breadth of actions, however, underscores Pinochet's isolation. His problems will continue to grow. A few days after the national actions, longshoremen in the port cities of Valparaíso and San Antonio went on strike. Independent truckers, whose protests played a role in setting the stage for the Pinochet coup 12 years ago, also went on a two-day strike over a hike in gasoline prices.

— From *Perspectiva Mundial*

## Scores killed in assault by Colombian government

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

Colombian government officials admit that at least 92 people, including 11 Supreme Court justices, were killed in a 28-hour siege by the army and police at the Palace of Justice in Bogotá.

The assault began November 6 when members of the April 19 Movement (M-19), a guerrilla organization, seized the Palace of Justice. M-19 demanded that newspapers and radio stations publicize M-19 statements exposing the government's violations of the cease-fire agreements it signed with M-19 and other guerrilla organizations in August 1984.

Since his election as president of Colombia in 1982, Belisario Betancur has been engaged in a so-called peace process to try and end the continuing guerrilla war in that country. In recent years, however, death squads, with known links to the military, have murdered, kidnapped, and tortured political activists. One such victim was M-19 leader Carlos Toledo Plata, who was murdered in August 1984. Other political activists have continually been harassed and jailed by authorities despite the truce.

Three and a half hours after the government siege began, Supreme Court President Alfonso Reyes, one of the scores of judges held by the M-19, appealed to Betancur to withdraw government troops and negotiate a settlement. Betancur rejected this appeal, refusing to even answer Reyes' telephone calls.

Hundreds of government troops, using armored cars equipped with 90-millimeter cannons, surrounded the building and began the siege. In the course of the assault, government forces used dynamite to blast through walls. It is unknown how many of the victims of the siege died as a result of the fires set off by the blasts.

Fifty-five members of M-19 — all those who were involved in the takeover — were killed. There is speculation that the army had been ordered to take no prisoners.

In the wake of this massacre, the U.S.

government and the big-business press here have hailed Betancur as a great defender of democracy. He, however, faces rising opposition at home.

As soon as the siege began, the 30,000-member National Association of Judicial Workers went out on strike to protest the government's refusal to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the takeover. The union — which is continuing its walkout — is demanding that General Miguel Vega Uribe, minister of defense, who led the attack, be dismissed. It is also planning to go before the World Court in Geneva, Switzerland, to expose Betancur's role in the bloodbath.

All the surviving members of the Supreme Court, the members of the Council of State (the nation's legislature), and the families of the victims boycotted the public funeral, led by Betancur, in protest of the government's handling of the Palace of Justice takeover.

In the aftermath of the assault, Betancur is continuing to call on the guerrilla organizations to participate in the government's so-called peace process. But the brutal character of the government's siege signals stepped-up repression against political organizations by the Colombian military.



Colombian military used tanks in its assault on Palace of Justice. A total of 92 people were killed during attack.

## Social disaster follows volcano eruption

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

"We don't have the help we need. We need people, and we need equipment. We need helicopters, and we need stretchers, gauze, anesthetics, all kinds of first-aid supplies," said Raúl Alfárez, a 20-year-old volunteer who has been leading the rescue effort in the aftermath of the volcanic eruption that left 25,000 people dead or missing in Colombia.

The Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted twice on November 13, melting the snow that covered it and touching off massive mud slides. The slides buried the town of Armero, population 25,000, and devastated Chinchiná, population 70,000, in Colombia's coffee-growing region.

Most people in the United States know Colombia only as an alleged part of the international drug trade and as one of the member nations in the Contadora group — four Latin American countries working for a peace treaty in Central America. But Colombia, a country of 28.5 million people, has been kept underdeveloped and poor by U.S. imperialist exploitation.

Its economy has been hit by the world economic crisis, which has meant plummeting prices for its major product — coffee — and rising prices for its imports.

This economic crisis has been worsened

by the crushing burden of its \$12 billion foreign debt, the majority of which is owed to U.S. banks.

Poverty and underdevelopment limited Colombia's ability to respond to this disaster. And Colombia also received little help from Washington.

Although the U.S. government knew there was a possibility that the Nevado del Ruiz volcano would erupt, it did not give aid to Colombia to help develop an emergency plan. Since the eruption, the U.S. government has given little aid. To date, Washington has provided only 12 helicopters, 4,500 blankets and cots, 500 tents, and medical supplies. This is a drop in the bucket compared to the needs of the Colombian people and the wealth of the U.S. government.

Colombia has also been rocked by social unrest, including an ongoing guerrilla war. Large parts of the country have been militarized, and death squads with links to the military have been kidnapping, torturing, and murdering political activists opposed to the government.

It is not surprising, then, that the Colombian government took few steps to limit the loss of life.

It is now known that scientists in Colombia had reported a "67 percent probability" of an eruption of this volcano as early as

1984. The Colombian government, however, had not developed plans to evacuate residents of the region.

For two months leading to the eruption, the volcano had been smoking. For three days it spewed ashes. Yet the government made no attempt to evacuate residents.

Even after the first eruption of the volcano Wednesday afternoon, survivors say they were told there was no danger and they should stay at home.

The growing outrage at the government's failure to evacuate the towns was expressed by Alirio Oliveros, a survivor. "The government didn't pay any attention to this town," he said. "I was listening to the radio, and they said there was no danger."

Rescue efforts in the aftermath of the disaster have been limited because of the lack of equipment and medical supplies. In one case a 13-year-old girl, trapped in water up to her neck, died from exposure because rescue workers could not get a water pump that worked in time to save her.

Some 500 people were believed to still be trapped in the mud in Armero when the Colombian government called off the rescue effort on November 17 and declared the area a cemetery.

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# BUILDING ANTI-APARTHEID AND ANTIWAR ACTIONS

## 1,800 hear Leah Tutu

ATLANTA — Buckhead, a wealthy section of Atlanta noted for its high-rise condos, fancy shopping centers, and expensive restaurants, greeted Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker, chief architect of the Reagan administration's foreign policy in southern Africa, on November 7.

Crocker's message was clear: continued support to the racist, apartheid system and the government of South Africa.

But, across town, Leah Tutu, director of Domestic Workers and Employee Project in South Africa and wife of Bishop Desmond Tutu, had a different message for the 1,800 people who came to hear her at Morehouse College.

"We want freedom," she told the crowd to tumultuous applause, "not reform, and we want it yesterday!"

Tutu's tour of Atlanta, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel, was endorsed by over 15 religious organizations and churches.

"We reaffirm the bonds of solidarity between freedom-loving people" in South Africa and the United States, said Coretta Scott King.

Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, declared, "We know you will be free. It's not a question of if, but when."

Mayor Andrew Young proclaimed Nov. 7, 1985, Leah Tutu Day in Atlanta.

Especially well-received was Dwayne Redding, representative of the recently formed city-wide Georgia Students Coalition



Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) President Joseph Lowery, and SCLC/Women protesting the sale of South African products by Winn-Dixie stores. The protests have taken place in Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Georgia.

Against Apartheid.

Speaking for the students, Redding explained, "Until a philosophy that holds one race superior and one inferior is overthrown, South Africa will be ungovernable."

Tutu said, "My message to you tonight is very simple and straightforward. Apartheid is evil. Help us destroy it!"

"I must remind you this evil system has the full support of the Western, civilized, Christian governments. We are told South Africa is a stalwart against communism. I do not care for communism... but I resent being told by a government that exploits and colonizes us that communism is bad for me."

"How do they know what is good for me?" she challenged. "If being forcibly removed from an area you have lived in for generations to an arid area with no job

opportunities... if being woken up at three o'clock in the morning by the security police, taken into custody, and never tried for any crime... if a state expenditure that is 10 times more dollars for each white child is good for me... then I think communism would do better."

"We are not without hope," she explained. "Even at this last hour, we are still hoping that the international community will put pressure [on the government] to come to the negotiating table with the authentic leaders of the Black people... But we have been patient for far too long, and we are not going to turn back now!"

## Nelson Mandela recovering

According to the *New York Times*, jailed African National

Congress leader Nelson Mandela is recovering well from a November 3 operation for the removal of an enlarged prostate gland.

Mandela's doctor said that he got up on November 7, and his progress is normal, as was expected.

A spokesman for the South African Prisons Department refused to give out any information on when he is expected to leave the hospital.

## Southern Africa, Central America tour

BY SALLY GOODMAN

DENVER — "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua" was the theme of a tour that stopped in the Denver area October 29-31.

The tour of speakers from Nicaragua, South Africa, and Namibia was sponsored by the American Committee on Africa, MADRE, the Nicaragua Network, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and the United States Student Association.

Seventy-five people attended a public meeting at St. Cajetan's church on the Auraria campus in Denver to hear the speakers.

Monica Nashandi, a representative of the Youth League of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), said, "We call upon you to force the Reagan administration to withdraw their policy in southern Africa and Central America. We also call upon you to intensify your anti-apartheid campaign and continue fighting for economic sanctions against South Africa. Our struggle is just and will continue!"

Virginia Montoya of the Na-

tional Union of Nicaraguan Students (UNEN) said, "We accomplished in six years what Somoza could never accomplish. We would have accomplished more if we weren't faced with the murderous *contra* (counterrevolutionary) war."

The U.S.-sponsored contras are "destroying schools, child-care centers, economic projects for our children and people. They are violating laws and they are violating our airspace. It's this situation that pushed us to establish a state of emergency," she said.

Montoya continued, "The people of Namibia, the people of South Africa, the North American people, and the Nicaraguan people want peace. This struggle is everyone's struggle."

The youth leaders circulated petitions demanding the release of four Black student leaders of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) who have been charged with high treason for the "crime" of organizing protests against the racist system of apartheid.

Claire Mohapi, who was forced into exile because of her activities as a leader of COSAS and who is now a leader of the Youth Section of the African National Congress (ANC), said, "We know South Africa will not give in. There is no oppressor in the history of mankind that has liberated those that they oppressed."

"Today, when people have fought so hard, the Reagan administration fights against them."

"Reagan goes around calling the ANC terrorists, as he supports the racist, murderous policies of South Africa. The strongest power in the world goes after Nicaragua, a tiny country. That is why we say, 'Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua!'"

# Boston bilingual education target of new attack

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Speaking before the chamber of commerce here recently, School Superintendent Laval Wilson attacked the Boston school system's bilingual education program, which by law is mandatory for students whose second language is English.

While claiming to support bilingual education as a "transitional program," Wilson told the assembled bankers, lawyers, and corporate rich in his November 1 presentation, "If I had my way with it, and I recognize that I couldn't do this, I would teach kids only in English or merge them as

rapidly into English classes as I could."

The bulk of the students in Boston's bilingual education program are drawn from the roughly 10,000 Latino students in the system, nearly 17 percent of the student body. They come from Puerto Rico, Central and South America, and the Dominican Republic.

In addition, Asian students — from China, Vietnam, Kampuchea, and elsewhere — number over 4,000, many of whom participate in bilingual programs, along with students from Haiti, Greece, and Portugal.

Boston's Latino public student enrollment has more than doubled in the past decade.

Bilingual programs have been expanded during this period as a result of the fight to desegregate the school system and eliminate racist discrimination in public education. In the program, which is mandated by court order, students are taught math, science, history, and other subjects in their own language, while learning English.

Also under the desegregation order, Latino and Asian and other minority teachers must comprise 10 percent of the

teaching staff by 1990.

Wilson's challenge to bilingual education was met immediately by Latino educators.

Wilson has, Alianza Hispania director Nelson Merced stated, "a basic misunderstanding of the problem Latino children face." They need bilingual education to learn to speak English "without getting lost and continue to learn at the same pace as other children."

Estella Carrón, director of the Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation, noted that, while bilingual programs are faced with "administrative" difficulties, what was essential was to remedy those, not shift "the blame on the victims" — the students who need improved bilingual education.

Wilson's pitch against bilingual education found an echo a week later at the Massachusetts State Convention of School Committees. It voted 109-69 to file legislation making bilingual education *optional* instead of mandatory.

If passed, this law would make learning in the first language — Spanish, Chinese, Khmer, Greek, or Portuguese — in various subjects optional, forcing students to first learn English to study them.

This would hold immigrant students' learning hostage to first learning English, and would accelerate the "push out" rate of those students from the schools.

This racist assault on the right to learn in one's own language gets strong backing from the liberal Boston *Globe*, which hailed Wilson's proposal. The *Globe* editors urged Wilson to pursue it with "determination" and not to be put off from so doing by "those concerned with their own self-interest."

That is, the thousands of Latino, Asian, Haitian, and other working people — many driven to the United States by economic crisis or fleeing U.S.-backed dictatorships — have committed the "crime" of wanting their children to learn in their language as they learn English.

# School desegregation 'unfinished business'

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — Citing "unfinished business" in the task of desegregating the Boston school system, Federal District Judge W. Arthur Garrity announced November 1 his decision to retain standby jurisdiction in key areas of public education here.

He will maintain such control even though he subsequently retired from the federal bench, a decision he announced November 15.

Garrity ordered systemwide school busing in Boston in 1974 to end decades of racist discrimination. He assumed control of the schools during that first year of desegregation as a result of the efforts by the Boston School Committee to organize disruption of his ruling.

A strong movement by the city's Black community defeated racist mobs and secured the desegregation order.

Garrity returned control of the school system to the committee on September 3 of this year, over objections by attorneys for Black and Latino plaintiffs who initiated the desegregation case.

The lawyers contended that, despite some changes in personnel on the committee, as a body it remained incapable of en-

forcing a court order aimed at securing the rights of oppressed minorities to equal educational opportunity.

Garrity's November 1 memorandum nailed the School Committee for refusing to "remedy the disgraceful condition of its public school buildings," the majority of which are in Black and Latino neighborhoods.

He stated he would maintain control of assignments of students to schools, key to the desegregation process.

Garrity also noted he would remain in authority over teacher hiring and faculty desegregation, vocational education, and the continued existence of citywide parent councils.

The School Committee is appealing the faculty desegregation order, which mandates a 25 percent Black and 10 percent Latino and Asian teacher force within five years, as well as Garrity's order that the parent councils be fully funded and maintained.

The officialdom of the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) has stated its intent to appeal the teacher hiring quotas because, according to President Edward Doherty, it would "make hiring white teachers impossible."

Before court-ordered desegregation —

when teaching employment was part of a system of racist patronage — 4 percent of the city's teachers were Black. Today, 21 percent are, with about 4 percent Latino and Asian.

Garrity threw a barb at the Boston media for "woefully mistaken" coverage of desegregation, including its manufacturing of "imaginary orders" he supposedly made during hearings held this year.

He also blasted *New Perspectives*, the journal of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights — which under the Reagan administration has become a propaganda machine churning out disinformation against busing, desegregation, and affirmative action. Its assessment of busing in Boston, Garrity stated, was "absolutely amazing" and written "with slight regard for the facts."

Garrity's findings of School Committee failings led him to conclude the desegregation case is "not ripe for entry of final judgement." This means that in central areas of the process Garrity is not willing to return control to the committee.

"Loose ends," Garrity stated, remain to be tied up before total control is finally given to the committee.



# Union leader's speech against apartheid

Led by the New Jersey union movement, a broad coalition of forces held a march and rally against apartheid in Newark November 9. One of the principal speakers was Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of District 65, an affiliate of the United Auto Workers. The following is a transcription of his speech.

It's a pleasure for me to be with you on this occasion and hear of the numbers that have turned out. Although I still believe that with the demonstration we had in New York August 13, we are ahead of you. There were 30,000 there and it took exactly two weeks to build it. The turnout was another demonstration of the fact that people are disturbed, sick and tired of seeing day after day — as you listen to the news, read in the papers — more deaths, more bodies to be buried, and the blood of our brothers and sisters crying out from the ground. And all they seek is simple elementary justice.

People tell me I'm looking young, but there were days when I was younger and as a youngster I remember Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association. He told us then that our freedom was inseparably bound up with Africans' freedom.

Then I came here and listened to Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, who founded the NAACP in 1909. He reminded us that in 1912 the African National Congress was founded in South Africa. The ANC is South Africans' NAACP. This is the organization of Nelson Mandela and all the so-called outlaws that [South Africa's President Pieter] Botha has driven out of their country. If it had happened here, all the leaders of the NAACP, past and present, would have been driven out of the United States and we would have been still in the Dark Ages of segregation and discrimination in this country.

Then I worked with A. Philip Randolph. Thirty-five years ago he and I and others went to the South African embassy in New York to demonstrate against the murders that were taking place in South Africa. We were driven out of the premises. We were told bluntly we were on South African soil.

Thirty-five years have gone by and, if anything, things have gotten worse.

Now I must tell you that I strongly support sanctions against South Africa. And let me tell you what I mean by sanctions. I think that every American corporation ought to get the hell out of South Africa. There are some, even some of our friends in labor — I hope they'll change their minds now — who have given support to the so-called Sullivan principles. The Sullivan principles are a fraud. It's a delusion.

## King Day activities set in San Francisco

Continued from front page

newspaper of the San Francisco Labor Council, Walter Johnson said, "The march on January 20 is likely to be the largest public event in the history of San Francisco."

Lavon Barnes, of the San Jose Free South Africa Movement and one of two unionists on staff to organize the march, expects that close to 100,000 people will march on that day. The march will begin at the foot of Market Street and proceed to the Civic Center for a rally.

A train to bring marchers from the South Bay is being organized.

For more information, contact the Martin Luther King March Coordinating Committee, 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102. Telephone (415) 771-6300.

The article in *Northern California Labor* also quotes from a booklet issued by the national AFL-CIO in preparation for January 20 marches across the country. The booklet states, "Today, the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions are dedicated to continuing the struggle for equality and economic justice that was led for so brief a period by Dr. King."

The themes of social justice and an end to racism will be central to the celebration of King's birthday, according to march organizers. "This is also an antiwar and anti-apartheid event," said Lavon Barnes. "It stands for the things [Martin Luther King] stood for," she said.

It's only an excuse to allow big corporations to go down there to reap profits from slave labor. We've got to understand that. Because you cannot have equality in the workplace when the workers leave that workplace and go back into shacks in a compound where he's not a person.

And let's understand that these very employers who subscribe to the Sullivan principles fight the unions tooth and nail.

So let's cut the employers out. Stop lending money to South Africa, through the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank. Stop it, and stop it now!

And as you have led the way in New Jersey, let me from this podium say to our government in the state of New York, we want divestment legislation, Governor Cuomo! If New Jersey can do it, if Connecticut can do it, if Massachusetts can do it, so New York can do it too.

But we must do more than that. Now they black out news in South Africa. They don't want you to hear the daily crimes and atrocities.

But we know it's still going now. Let us organize through our unions, our churches, and our committees.

Let us find ways and means of communicating with our brothers and sisters in South Africa. Let them know that we care. Find a way of saying to them, "We are on the case."

They need funds. I spoke to leaders of the African miners' union at the demonstration in New York. And I asked him, "What can we do?" And he said, "We have



Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of District 65 United Auto Workers in New York.

people who are hungry. We have picket lines to maintain. Funds are always welcome."

Let's raise money and send it to South Africa to help them in their struggle, through our churches and our unions. We must keep on the case. We must not take no for an answer from any source.

And find out from banks what they are

doing. If we have a bank that is lending money to South Africa, take the money out of the bank. Put it in a bank that is not dealing with South Africa. These are concrete things that we must do now. And join the marching, marching, marching until finally we bring victory home. Let's remember — a South African victory is a victory for American people too.

## Mandela: U.S. backs racist regime

Continued from front page

in the South African press is more extensive, however. And even this gives only a pale reflection of the continuing freedom struggle.

On November 14 cops arrested 718 Black student nurses and auxiliaries in an effort to break a strike for higher wages at the country's largest hospital, which is in Soweto.

Leaders of the National Union of Textile Workers, General Workers Union, and Western Cape Teachers Union were among the more than 100 anti-apartheid activists arrested after the regime imposed a state of emergency on the Cape Town area October 26. The government banned meetings of 102 organizations in the area.

The ban affects every organization affiliated to the United Democratic Front and groups like the Detainees Support Committee.

The October 25 Johannesburg *Star* reported that police surrounded the Johannesburg headquarters of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and closed off surrounding streets after NUM members staged a demonstration.

A new union federation is scheduled to be launched in Durban at the end of November. The planned federation is to include the NUM, nine affiliates of the Federation of South Africa Trade Unions, General Workers Union, Food and Canning Workers Union, Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union, Cape Town Municipal Workers Association, 11 unions affiliated to the United Democratic Front, and 9 affiliates of the National Federation of Workers. The *Star* reported that the new federation could be "numerically the strongest and potentially the most powerful union grouping in South Africa."

One aim of the escalating crackdown is to weaken the individual unions and disrupt these efforts to unite.

Massive protests against the racist education system continue. According to a South African Press Association dispatch, students boycotted the October 27 matriculation examinations in Soweto. "Most secondary schools were virtually deserted — except for the members of the SADF [South Africa Defense Forces] on the premises."

"Schooling has virtually come to an end in the townships," the dispatch continued.

On October 30 the formation of Education for an Aware South Africa was announced. Formed by teachers in white high schools, the group seeks to combat racist

indoctrination in the white school system. It proclaims itself to be "completely non-racial, nonsexist, and nonsectarian." Like the Black protesters, it calls for dismantling racist education and setting up a single nonracial education system.

Representatives of 186 U.S. companies operating in South Africa sent a message November 15 to President Pieter Botha urging him to "lower tensions" in the school system.

As the government's racist violence escalates, President Botha is hinting at the possibility of what he calls "new adaptations" in the racist system of white minority rule.

On November 14 he asked the President's Council, a largely advisory body dominated by the ruling National Party, to consider ways of including Africans on the body. At the same time, Botha indicated that he wants the functions of the council reviewed with the aim of stripping it of its few legislative powers.

While stalling on even trivial changes in apartheid, the government is proposing to expand the offenses for which whipping can be imposed on rebellious Blacks. A measure would allow the racist government to whip those convicted of "murder where a death sentence is not imposed, arson or malicious damage to property, and public violence or sedition," according to the South African Press Association.

Despite highly publicized claims that the pass laws may be scrapped or modified, they "are still being implemented with fervor," reported the October 27 Johannesburg *Star*.

These laws require Africans to carry a detailed reference book for examination by cops or other officials. The pass laws are used to bar millions of Blacks from "white" South Africa unless they are there to work for a white boss.

The regime is also preparing to forcibly move well over 100,000 Blacks as part of its plans to strengthen the Bantustan system. The Bantustans are desolate reservations where millions of Blacks must live when not working in the 87 percent of South Africa reserved for whites.

The Transvaal Rural Action Committee held a meeting to voice the protests of seven Black communities facing forced relocation. "Were the Government seriously reconsidering apartheid," the meeting declared, "it would surely allow the status quo to remain instead of starting a new plan to forcibly remove thousands of people."

In an October 31 speech Botha portrayed the racist laws as "instruments intended to uplift people." These laws, he said, had become "official under the name of 'apartheid' in 1948."

According to a South African Press Association summary, he explained that "the word 'apartheid' had long ago fallen into disuse in government circles, being replaced by the term 'separate development.'"

"The positive results of the policies could be seen today," he said.

Nonetheless, Botha complained bitterly, "we have become the number one outlaw in the international community."



Striking hospital workers in Soweto stand up to government union busting, which included arresting 718 people.



# Interview with Kanak independence fighter

## Continued from back page

What can they do? It's very like our struggle. The French took our land and put our people on reservations. We, too, have suffered genocide. Once, there were 200,000 Kanak people. Now, we are 60,000 out of a population of 140,000.

And also with the women. Before colonization, before the missionaries, women had much more respect under the old customs.

## Comparison with apartheid

**Q.** You frequently compared the rule of the French in your country with the apartheid regime in South Africa?

**A.** Yes, first of all, just the way it looks. You see the cops attack the people, beat the people, and the young run away, but they come back at the cops again with stones, with whatever they have. It is just like at home.

And the French put us on reserves, like they put the Black people in South Africa on reserves. In the city of Nouméa, there are not too many Blacks. Because you have to have a job in the city to be able to live there. There are 60,000 Kanaks, and only about 7,000 have jobs. If you have no job, you must live on the reservation. They don't let our people work in the mines. They put us on the reservation and exploit the wealth of our country, exploit our minerals. The French government says it is for "Fraternity, Equality, Liberty." That makes me laugh.

So, when you hear about how rich South Africa is, how it is a wealthy country, and how they put the Black people on reserves, we know it is like our people.

## French don't want world to know

**Q.** The French colonial press in New Caledonia was very upset by your remarks comparing New Caledonia with South Africa.

**A.** Yes, they said everything I said was a big lie. They said it is a lie that there were once 200,000 Kanak people. *Les Nouvelles*, which is the paper of the French fascists in New Caledonia, was very upset about the pamphlet. [For Kanak independence, the fight against French rule in New Caledonia, by Susanna Ounei. It was first published in New Zealand, where Ounei

was the official representative of FLNKS. It can be ordered from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. \$1.00 plus 75 cents for postage and handling.] They are really angry because now this pamphlet is being disseminated throughout the world — in Africa, in Canada, in the United States. It has just been translated into Japanese. This really worries them, so they say I am a liar. FLNKS has responded to them, saying everything I say is true.

Even in France, they are worried that the story of my people is being told to the world. The French newspaper, *Le Figaro*, said that the New Zealand government is anti-French, and I am in the pay of the New Zealand government to spread lies about the French. They try to paint me to the French public as a terrorist.

This kind of thing is not new. Last year, *Les Nouvelles* put my picture in their paper to make sure the fascist gangs would recognize me, since I had changed my hair. They wrote an article mocking my name, using the song, "Oh, Susanna."

And they just recently ran an article saying that I should be punished by the courts when I get back home, because everything I said overseas is a lie.

## Martinique and Guadeloupe

**Q.** You also visited Martinique and Guadeloupe, which are also French colonies.

**A.** Yes, and the French officials, they didn't like that. They kept my luggage all night, and they tried to confiscate my documents. There was a lot of solidarity for our struggle in Martinique and Guadeloupe. When they killed Eloi Machoro [Eloi Machoro, a central leader of FLNKS, was assassinated by French occupation forces in January 1985], 300 people demonstrated in Martinique. In Guadeloupe, there were 2,000.

I met with leaders of the independence groups. In Martinique, for example, I explained that, at the beginning, we were only a few people to talk about independence. But in 1984, over 80 percent of the people supported FLNKS. So, that encourages other people to fight.

The colonization in Guadeloupe and Martinique is very different than at home. In New Caledonia, the Kanak people are a



Rouge  
Solidarity demonstration in Paris last April in response to call from Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS). Eloi Machoro (inset), central leader of FLNKS, assassinated by French occupation forces in January 1985. Sign reads: "All 60,000 of us are Machoros." The total Kanak population is 60,000.

minority now, because the French have an immigration policy designed "to keep New Caledonia white" and to make us a minority in our own land.

But in Martinique, there are 330,000 Black people and just 5,000 whites. It is about the same in Guadeloupe. This is a very big difference. And, of course, the economy is much more developed, and the Black people are more a part of the economy. There is even a very small bourgeoisie among the Blacks.

## Occupying army

**Q.** You will be returning home soon. What is the situation now in New Caledonia?

**A.** There is a very strong militarization. There are 11,000 of the French armed forces occupying our land. That includes the army and the gendarmes. That is one soldier for every six Kanak people.

Like in Algeria, when the people were fighting for independence, the French respond with force, with torture. [Algeria won its independence from France in 1962 after a bloody seven-year war of independence.] There have been 20 of our people killed by the French in the last year. And when I left, 100 in prison. Some of them were on a three-week hunger strike.

**Q.** You've said the French troops conduct "search and destroy missions," like in Vietnam.

**A.** Yes, when they come into the country to the tribes, they come with tanks, with automatics, and destroy everything: doors, windows, TVs, radios, everything in the houses. This is the method they use. In July, they planted a mine in the forest, so when a young man went out hunting, he came back dead. When they found him, his arm was blown off. So, now, we ask our people to be vigilant. They have to be careful. They can be killed any time.

## Armed thugs

And it not just the French troops. There are armed gangs of settlers. On September 24, Chirac and Le Pen came to New Caledonia. [Jacques Chirac is the right-wing mayor of Paris. Jean-Marie Le Pen heads the French fascist National Front. Both have led racist, anti-immigrant campaigns in France. Le Pen was a lieutenant in the French army in Algeria during the war of independence. Algerian detainees have named Le Pen as the officer who tortured them and executed another Algerian prisoner.]

This was a provocation, since they came on September 24, the day of the French colonization of our people, a day we consider the funeral of the Kanak people. They came to help organize the fascist thugs to kill our people. They are armed, but they are tolerated.

What happens is that a couple of these thugs will provoke the Kanak people, attack them. And when the Kanak responds, the French army comes in to help the whites.

Last week, they went to the FLNKS office in Nouméa. They set fire to it and destroyed everything inside. The police didn't come for an hour. Then, more than

100 of them went to destroy our newspaper, *Bwenando*, but we were lucky because 20 of our people were there, and this 20 pushed the 100 back.

## Won't accept 'puppet' gov't

So, that's the situation. The socialist government of France wants us to accept a phony independence: an "association" with France in which they would continue to exploit the wealth of our people and use some puppets to rule. That, we will never accept. We will never accept a puppet government. Our goal is to gain control of our land, wealth, economy, politics, our culture and our lives.

If Chirac and the right wing win the French elections, he has said they will never give up French territory to a violent minority. But the Socialist government [of French President François Mitterrand, leader of the Socialist Party] won't give us independence either. So the fight will heat up. In March, a referendum on independence is scheduled. The French want everyone to vote who has been in the country for three years. This means all the recent immigrants they brought in as part of their immigration policy of "keeping New Caledonia white," of making the Kanak people a minority in our own country. We say "no." We will not accept the referendum like that. We say let everyone vote who has at least one parent born in New Caledonia. This is fine. But, in any case, there will be a big fight starting up in March.

## It's now or never

**Q.** French imperialism seems willing to stop at nothing. Yet, despite overwhelming military force, and small numbers, the Kanak people continue to fight.

**A.** The Kanak people have always fought. But now, the Kanak people have nothing to lose. For our struggle, it's now or never. With the immigration policy they are following, with the white immigrants getting all the jobs, all the rights, while our people get nothing, there could be a million people on the island. And we will only be a small number with nothing.

## International solidarity

What can stop the French government? Our fight, plus pressure on the French government from around the world. It's the reason I have traveled around the world. International solidarity is very important to our struggle. We cannot be isolated. So, when I get back, we are going to step up international solidarity work, organized from New Caledonia, using the contacts we have made.

International solidarity is so important. At the Nairobi women's conference, I saw Vilma Núñez, who is an official of the Sandinista court. I knew her from an earlier international women's conference. We embraced. But I don't speak Spanish, and she doesn't speak French. So, I went with her to the tent where the Pacific women were, and asked, "Is there someone who speaks Spanish? I want to talk with my sister from Nicaragua." Women from East Timor and West Papua got up and translated for us. For me, it was an example of solidarity that touched me.

## Do you know someone who reads Spanish?

## 'PM': Nicaragua's autonomy plan

The Nicaraguan people have begun a nationwide discussion on the establishment of regional autonomy for the country's Atlantic Coast, where most of the Black and Indian peoples of Nicaragua live.

The autonomy plan seeks to strengthen the unity of Nicaragua as a multiracial, multilingual, and multicultural nation; to reinforce its defenses against the contra war sponsored by Washington; and to extend participation in the revolution to all the working people of Nicaragua.

The new issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* contains a speech by Sandinista leader Tomás Borge explaining the multiracial character of the Nicaraguan nation. Borge describes the relationship between this reality and Nicaragua's revolutionary process, including the question of autonomy.

Borge discusses the gains of the revolution, the indigenous and African heritage of Nicaragua, the just demands of the different racial groups within the country, and the struggle to guarantee equality for all Nicaraguans.

*Perspectiva Mundial* is the Spanish-language socialist magazine that every two weeks brings you the truth about the struggles of working people and the oppressed

**Perspectiva Mundial**

**Solidaridad con obreras empacadoras en huelga**

EUA  
AFL-CIO debate política de EU en Centroamérica

EUA  
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ESPECIAL  
Tomás Borge habla sobre el carácter multiétnico de Nicaragua

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# Photo essays on women, children under apartheid

BY SONJA FRANETA

***Women Under Apartheid* and *Children Under Apartheid*, two books of photographs and text published by International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa in cooperation with the United Nations Center Against Apartheid. Each 119 pp. London 1980 and 1981.**

Would you like to know what everyday life is like in South Africa?

Have you talked with coworkers and friends and wondered about the actual impact of apartheid on the Black people in South Africa?

This is not an underdeveloped country; it is an industrial, capitalist country. It excludes nonwhites from any

## BOOK REVIEW

wealth. In fact, the capitalist system there thrives on the legalized enslavement of Blacks that makes Black South Africans a people without a home in their native land.

If you want to understand the social consequences of apartheid, two books, *Women Under Apartheid* and *Children Under Apartheid*, are a very good start. Both books came out of photo exhibitions commissioned by the United Nations and prepared with political thoughtfulness and accuracy by the International Defense and Aid Fund for Southern Africa. Based in London, the IDAF is "dedicated to the achievement of free, democratic, non-racial societies throughout Southern Africa." Their aim is to support and defend political prisoners and their families there and to keep people all over the world aware of what is going on in the region. They publish many other books of interest on southern Africa and they work closely with the African National Congress (ANC) in its struggle to free the South African people.

Each book contains over 100 beautiful black-and-white photos and an excellent text that relates facts and figures as well as stories of everyday experiences. When you look at these photos and study the facts, you see not only how brutal and deep is the racial oppression and apartheid system, but also how strong and determined is the fighting spirit of the Black people. The necessity to abolish apartheid comes from the daily violence dealt them, both physical and mental.

Some of the captions give a feel for the kinds of photos in these books. "African mother, Coloured father — an illegal family." "Mother and children living in abandoned vehicle after demolition of home in District Six." "Children of ANC activists handing out leaflets." "Soweto children protest against Bantu Education." "Mother

and children flee from police and dogs attacking Crossroads squatter camp, 14 September 1978."

In a photo of a demonstration in honor of a student who died in police detention, a big banner reads: "For freedom we shall lay down our lives. The struggle continues." The last picture in *Women Under Apartheid* is captioned "Thandi Modise, ANC guerrilla, now serving an eight-year prison sentence. She is the first woman in South Africa to be convicted, under the Terrorism Act, for undergoing military training." A young woman.

In *Children Under Apartheid* we learn that students became a main target for government repression in the late 1970s — "because of their refusal to be intimidated by police violence." The first person shot during the demonstrations against the wretchedly inferior Bantu education system was a 13-year-old boy.

Children suffer violence, torture, imprisonment, and homelessness. Health care and education are miserable for a Black child. The Black infant mortality rate is six times higher than the white rate. Malnutrition is a frequent cause of death for Black children. Many African children do not go to school. Public spending on white education is 15 times higher than on African education. Child labor, especially on sugar cane plantations, is common.

In both books we get an understanding of how family life is torn apart under apartheid. In order to work in the cities, women and men must not only get permission to do so but they must most often live in "hostels" without their children or loved ones, and separately. If a woman wants to live with her children she must live in a Bantustan — the so-called homelands. These barren reserve areas make up less than 13 percent of the land area and yet are "home" for 70 percent of the South African population.

More than half of the African population lives elsewhere though. Families get evicted from their homes. "Squatter camps," which arose out of rebellion against the isolated Bantustans, are demolished by the government without warning.

Women not only get driven off the land, but they also have a lot of difficulty finding employment. Most women work as domestic servants or farm laborers.

Both books devote quite a few pictures to illustrating that both children and women continue to fight for freedom. Those are some of my favorite shots. It was in the 1950s, when women began to be a threat, that the minister of native affairs decreed that women too must carry passes, previously only required of men over 16 years old.

Under the pass laws, an African person must always carry an official record of where he or she has worked and lived and other identifying details. This is a frequent cause for victimizations. At least 12.5 million people



Women Under Apartheid  
**Demonstration in 1957 of peasant women protesting the apartheid regime's extension of pass books to women.**

were arrested or prosecuted under the pass laws between 1948 and 1981. On Aug. 9, 1956, 20,000 women from all over the country protested the pass laws in Pretoria and other cities.

All the organizing that women were able to do came under severe government repression in the 1960s. The ANC Women's League and the nonracial Federation of South African Women were banned. But the resistance continues. Women workers have had strikes at their workplaces and continue to protest living conditions.

Here is what the women sing to their oppressors. From the "Women's Anti-Pass Campaign Song," 1956:

"Now you have touched the women  
you have struck a rock  
You have dislodged a boulder  
You will be crushed."

Both these books are available at some of the bookstores listed in our directory on page 19 and at some commercial bookstores. They can also be ordered from: International Defense and Aid Fund, P.O. Box 17, Cambridge, Mass. 02238. *Women Under Apartheid* is \$6.70 by mail, including postage, and *Children Under Apartheid*, \$5.70, including postage.

## 'UMW Journal' blasts campaign of company violence

BY NORTON SANDLER

A well-organized campaign of violence has been at the center of tactics A.T. Massey Coal Co. is using to try to break the 13-month strike by the United Mine Workers of America. Struck are Massey's coal mines in West Virginia and Kentucky.

Several articles in the October issue of the *United Mine Workers Journal* give a picture of what 1,500 miners have had to stand up to during this hard-fought strike.

The strike began in November 1984 after Massey refused to sign the no-concessions national agreement the union had negotiated with the coal companies that make up the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. Massey claimed that each of its coalfield operations was an independent setup and demanded they be bargained with separately.

Massey itself is owned by Royal Dutch Shell and Fluor Corp., which the *Journal* describes as "two of the largest corporations in the world."

The separate-ownership scam is part of Massey's plan to expand nonunion coal operations in the heart of the Appalachian coalfields.

In an article entitled "Company violence, a union-busting tool," the *Journal* explains that, "while the tactics of intimidation and provocation aren't new, companies are investing big money in the latest union-busting technology: helicopters, surveillance equipment, searchlights, and even armored personnel carriers (APCs) like the one found hidden in Massey's Sprouse Creek compound."

Union President Richard Trumka told the *Journal*, that "Companies are able to reap enormous benefits from the use of violence. They can hire armed mercenaries to establish an atmosphere of violence."

Since the beginning of the strike, company thugs patrolling Massey's mines have tried to provoke union members.

A woman miner who was shot on a pick-

et line told the *Journal* how it works. "I've seen the companies use violence against us two ways. They do direct violence, like shooting at us or intimidating us. But they also try to provoke us into violence to turn public sentiment against the union."

A favorite tactic during the strike has been to film picket lines and other union activities. A Kentucky miner said, "Companies are using videotape against us to get injunctions in court. The guards provoke us, get us mad, and then film it and take it to a judge. Or they edit their footage so that a peaceful gathering looks like a mob riot

in court."

During the course of the strike, some union members have also had their homes shot into, a union headquarters has been bombed, and miners have been sent to the hospital after their truck was run off the road by nonunion coal haulers.

The atmosphere of violence promoted by the company has also been used as a pretext for drawing state and local police into action against the union.

Because of the stakes involved in this struggle, the United Mine Workers has received considerable support from other

unions. The *Journal* has a three-page spread on the "Motown to Coaltown" convoy of 217 vehicles organized by the United Auto Workers last August to bring food and clothing to the strikers. The article, entitled "Solidarity, labor's answer to the union-busters," contains brief interviews with auto workers and coal miners about the caravan.

The information in this issue of the *Journal* will be of value to all unionists. Copies can be obtained by writing the UMW Office of Public Information, 900 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

## Judge's bias marks Ariz. sanctuary trial

Continued from back page

tral America or on United States foreign policy. They will not be allowed to present any defense based on their religious motivations.

He has specifically barred any mention of a 1967 U.S. Action that defines the status of refugees. The sanctuary workers contend that if this statute were to be applied correctly, it would support their aiding refugees from political terror in Central America.

"Evidence of international law shall be excluded from this case," Judge Carroll ruled.

He has repeatedly referred to the case as a simple question of "smuggling" and has ruled that no evidence may be cited that is aimed at proving the sanctuary workers were aiding political refugees.

The defense has repeatedly tried to prove Carroll's bias in the case but to no avail. Carroll owns 100 shares of Phelps Dodge stock, the Arizona copper company that viciously broke striking copper worker unions. Phelps Dodge also has mining interests in El Salvador.

Carroll has referred to the 1980 U.S.

Refugee Act as "wetback legislation."

More recently the defense has taken the position that this is a case of selective prosecution. It is selective, they say, because the owners of large farms and ranches who recruit undocumented workers are given free rein.

The defense points out that the growers recruit these workers because they can be paid low wages and forced to work in very bad conditions since they are unable to protect their rights. But the growers' economic interests are protected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), while the sanctuary defendants have been singled out because of their open criticism of the United States government's immigration policy and its sponsorship of terror against the people of Central America.

It has also been disclosed that Judge Carroll holds 293 shares of stock in Valley National Bank, which owns just such a ranch.

The workers at that ranch — Whitewing Ranch — are currently on strike to protest the brutal conditions there. The workers, who are seeking recognition of the Arizona Farm Workers union, have exposed the

practice of the bosses in recruiting workers from across the Mexican border and forcing them to walk over 50 miles of desert for potential jobs. Workers say that hundreds of people have died on this torturous journey.

Carroll has refused to remove himself from the case, saying that no one could conclude that his ownership of stock, valued at more than \$10,000, would affect his judgment in the case.

In a significant new development, it has been revealed that the entire case was orchestrated from the federal INS offices in Washington, D.C.

The Phoenix-based INS investigator, James Rayburn, testified that he attended a meeting in 1984 in Washington where the ultimate decision was made to prosecute the sanctuary activists. This meeting included INS Commissioner Alan Nelson. In other words, he said, direction of this particular case came from the highest levels of the government.

Almost the entire case against the activists is based on the testimony of paid infiltrators who wore hidden tape recorders.



**Well? — "MOSCOW —** Mikhail S. Gorbachev's America is a land controlled by wealthy capitalists and conservative busi-



**Harry Ring**

ness interests. Right-wing forces dictate government policy and would never permit a lasting improvement in relations with the Soviet Union." — News item.

**Capitalist know-how —** "Beginning next summer and lasting until 1990, riders of the West End B train. Brooklyn will be hit with delays in off-peak hours and on weekends as the Transit Authority launches major repairs on the dilapidated line" — News item.

**All synthetic and a yard wide —** We had resolved to ignore the royal visit but couldn't resist the comment by Michael Cole, BBC's royal correspondent: "President Reagan greeted the Prince and Princess wearing a plaid jacket that was remarkably similar to the carpet at Balmoral Castle."

**And, if need be, the living —** In the Houston area, lists are

posted of homes facing foreclosure. Speculators quickly move in for the kill. One such chap makes an appraisal and offers half the value. Desperate homeowners often accept. Isn't it a dirty job? "It's like a guy in the funeral business," he responds. "Somebody has to bury the dead."

**It figures —** Last spring the Nicaraguan Refugee Fund, assisted by the White House, organized a black-tie dinner with the prez as the main speaker. A total of \$219,525 was taken in. Expenses for the dinner, plus over a hundred thou in "consulting fees," and other odds and ends totaled \$218,376. That left a fast \$1,149

for exiles in Central America.

**Why not just bottle the smoke? —** When the government licensed a funeral consortium to shoot cremated remains into space, we wondered how they would reduce a body to an amount of ashes that will fit into a thimble-size capsule. The answer, it seems, is the ashes will be re-burned at a higher temperature. Tab for a space burial will be \$3,900 and they will fit 13,000 capsules into a single rocket nose for a take of \$50 million.

**He ain't kiddin' —** Mark Daniels, special projects manager for Space Service, the space fu-

neral consortium, tersely explains: "Our business is rocket-launching. We launch payloads into space."

**For that "grass-roots" pol —** A Chicago artist-entrepreneur is offering a tailor-made suit of rye-grass. It costs \$500 but won't go out of style. With three sprayings a day it will last better than a week.

**Mr. Cool —** Despite the spate of cancer-related damage suits, one Wall Street analyst thinks tobacco is still a good investment. "A small 25-cent-per-pack increase," he shrewdly observed, "would offset \$6 billion of annual damage awards."

## CALENDAR

### ALABAMA

#### Birmingham

**Behind the U.S. Anti-Soviet Campaign.** Speaker: Marty Boyers, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 205 18th St. S. Donation requested. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Jose

**Building International Workers' Solidarity.** A Socialist Publication Fund rally. Speakers: Doug Jenness, editor of *Intercontinental Press*; Carlos Avitia, president International Molders and Allied Workers union; Watsonville cannery strikers; representative of African National Congress of South Africa. Sat., Nov. 23, 7 p.m. 46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$3. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

### COLORADO

#### Denver

**The U.S.-USSR Summit.** Speaker: David Martin, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1156-C and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

### KENTUCKY

#### Louisville

**The Middle East: Who Are the Real Terrorists?** Speaker: Jeanette Tracy, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 24, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

### MARYLAND

#### Baltimore

**Revolution and Reaction in the Philippines.** Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### Boston

**What's Happening in Nicaragua Today?** Speaker: Ellen Berman, recently returned from Nicaragua. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

### MINNESOTA

#### St. Paul

**Chile Today: the Struggle Against the Dic-**

**tatorship Continues.** Speaker: Hernan Vidal, professor, Spanish-Portuguese department of University of Minnesota, member Chilean Solidarity Committee. Sun., Nov. 24, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Minnesota Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Socialist Publication Fund Celebration and Reception.** Speakers: Barry Sheppard, member Socialist Workers Party National Committee; Prosper Vokome, director of political affairs of Burkina's Ministry of Foreign Relations and Cooperation. Sun., Nov. 24. Reception, 4 p.m.; program, 5 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blks. south of Canal). Donation: \$2. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

**Concert for Peace in Colombia.** Performers: Roy Brown and Inti Raimi. Sat., Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. W Brecht Auditorium, 151 W 19th St. 7th floor. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Informe Colombiano.

**Laos: 10 Years Later.** A Celebration of 10th Anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Speaker: Kithong Vongsay, Lao ambassador to UN. Mon., Dec. 2. Buffet, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 304 E 14th St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Ad Hoc Committee to Celebrate 10th Anniversary.

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Greensboro

**Fighting for Freedom from South Africa to Central America: U.S. Youth Join the Battle.** Panel discussion featuring Jackie Floyd, Young Socialist Alliance national cochairperson; anti-apartheid and Central America solidarity activists. Sat., Nov. 23. Dinner, 5 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2219 E Market. Ausp: YSA. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

### OHIO

#### Cincinnati

**Strength Through Struggle.** A labor history film. Discussion to follow. Sat., Dec. 7, 7 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

#### Cleveland

**Nicaragua: Eyewitness Accounts.** Speakers: John Burkett, Ohio farm activist, recently on North American Farm Alliance tour of Nicaragua; Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member, toured Nicaragua for one month, summer 1985. Fri., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

**Stop Police Violence and the Death Penalty.** Speakers: Lucius Woods, father of Michael Woods, murdered by policeman; Marcos Luciano, father of Marcos Luciano, Jr., murdered by same policeman; Roland Muhammad, representative of Muhammad Temple No. 18, Nation of Islam; Walter Jackson, People United Against Repression; Paul Hill, director of East End Neighborhood House; representative of National Black Independent Political Party. Sat., Nov. 23, 7 p.m. East End Neighborhood House, 2749 Woodhill. Ausp: Cleveland NBIPP. For more information call (216) 791-2538 or 921-5718.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**The Bombing of MOVE.** A panel discussion. Speakers: Vincent Phaahla, member Azania Peoples Organization; representative of NAACP Northside Branch; Chako Bendella, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

### TEXAS

#### Dallas

**Is the Soviet Union a Threat to World Peace?** Speaker: Craig Landberg, member Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 132 N Beckley. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 943-5195.

## Ga. Black farmer fights eviction

**Continued from front page**

est cotton crop in the county. The FmHA [Farmers Home Administration] tied up all his property for a small crop loan. It took advantage of the fact he can't read or write."

"They took all my equipment in '84," said Lorick. "I paid \$300,000 for that equipment. I had the highest-priced cotton picker that International Harvester makes. They say they gave me \$40,000 credit, but they didn't give me any papers on it. Then, in '85, they came for my land. Now they want my house."

"Not a man out there at that protest will get an operating loan next year," said Kersey. "Everyone who went out there is a branded man. We felt we had to do something. Eleven percent of the farmers who

will go under next year will be from Georgia."

New federal rules published Nov. 1, 1985, have cleared the way for the FmHA to resume foreclosures in Georgia. It had been barred from taking action against Georgia farmers since 1981, when a south Georgia farm family filed suit against the agency for failure to explain financial alternatives before foreclosure proceedings could take place.

Since the attempt to foreclose on the Lorick farm, both Lorick and the AAM report they have received hundreds of letters — including three from Germany — supporting the Lorick family's struggle to defend its farm. Included were thousands of dollars — mostly \$5 and \$10 donations — for financial aid.

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist bookstores.

**ALABAMA: Birmingham:** SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

**ARIZONA: Phoenix:** SWP, YSA, 3750 West McDowell Road #3. Zip: 85009. Tel: (602) 272-4026.

**CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles:** SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46 1/2 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

**COLORADO: Denver:** SWP, YSA, 25 W 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

**FLORIDA: Miami:** SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 370486. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-4434.

**GEORGIA: Atlanta:** SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** SWP, YSA, 3455 S Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

**KENTUCKY: Louisville:** SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

**LOUISIANA: New Orleans:** SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

**MARYLAND: Baltimore:** SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS: Boston:** SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

**MICHIGAN: Detroit:** SWP, YSA, 7146 W. McNichols. Zip: 48221. Tel: (313) 862-7755.

**MINNESOTA: Twin Cities:** SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**MISSOURI: Kansas City:** SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. **St. Louis:** SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

**NEW JERSEY: Newark:** SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany):** SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668.

**NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro:** SWP, YSA, 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

**OHIO: Cincinnati:** SWP, YSA, 4945 Paddock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161.

**Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 1701 W Bancroft St. Zip: 43606. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

**OREGON: Portland:** SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 402 N. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

**TEXAS: Austin:** YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

**Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 132 N. Beckley Ave., Zip: 75203. Tel: (214) 943-5195. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

**UTAH: Price:** SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

**VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News):** SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave., Zip: 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

**WASHINGTON: Seattle:** SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

**WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston:** SWP, YSA, 611A Tennessee. Zip: 25302. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

**WISCONSIN: Milwaukee:** SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.



# 'There are no laws that protect farm workers'

## N.J. organizer explains union drive

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — Glassboro is a small agricultural town in south New Jersey, 45 minutes from Philadelphia. Puerto Ricans have come to this area in southern New Jersey to work in the fields since World War II. Yet there are few signs in Spanish, and the Puerto Rican culture is invisible here. There are about 20,000 farm workers here in the summer, but there are no institutions to handle their needs.

Glassboro is the center of the farm community in the area and the place that CATA (Agricultural Workers' Support Committee) and COTA (Agricultural Workers' Organizing Committee — an independent union affiliated with the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO) are organizing farm workers.

CATA has a small office that it shares with the American Civil Liberties Union. The office has old furniture, and the walls are covered with posters, photos of striking workers, farm worker families in the fields, warnings about chemicals, and framed documents that state the legal right of workers to organize.

I interviewed Angel Domínguez, an organizer for CATA, about the history, development, and purpose of CATA and COTA.

Domínguez related the beginnings of CATA. "CATA was organized in the summer of 1979 at a farm workers' assembly, when 28 farm workers decided to organize to get social services and food stamps and to provide leadership for farm workers," he said. "At the same time, CATA was to prepare the way for the union drive. CATA was very active against crew leaders [foremen]. It brought lawsuits against the farmers' misuse of pesticides, held labor seminars, and got farm workers unemployment and other social benefits.

"CATA," he continued, "also has been building solidarity for the farm workers by talking to unions here in New Jersey and also in Pennsylvania.

"In the summer of 1984, COTA was formed by 45 workers who held an assembly to form a union. Now we have two organizations, CATA, a support organization, and COTA, the union. Both these organizations are close together, but separate.

"Now there are four organizing campaigns going on," Domínguez added, "one in Pennsylvania at the Basilio mushroom plant. We won that election July 21, but we have to wait, legally speaking, for the Pennsylvania Labor Board to rule on the

election, to make a decision. We also have Infante, Montinile, and Levin farms, in New Jersey, where we have had organizing drives and elections going on.

"One of the things that we are facing is an antiunion law firm from Philadelphia that the growers brought in to hold seminars on how to break the union," he explained. Domínguez said that federal money was used to pay the mailing cost for sending out invitations to farmers about this seminar.

He also explained that there has been violence against a CATA leader by a farm crew leader. "We expect to see more violence against us next year," he added.

"One of the problems that CATA and COTA face," said Domínguez, "is that there are no laws that protect farm workers. We have the right to organize, but the farmers don't have to negotiate in good faith. Even if we win elections, they don't have to talk to us. Even when we get them to the labor board, it is full of loopholes, so it is very hard for us."

Another problem in organizing farm workers is that they are migrant. Farm workers work one growing year here and then return to Puerto Rico. The next year they may return to the same area but work for another farmer.

Domínguez explained that CATA and COTA organize in Puerto Rico. "Many farm workers return to Puerto Rico in the winter, so we go there and have a base there. There have been 12 town assemblies, and we have a structure on the island. So, as we do organizing in New Jersey, we have follow-up in Puerto Rico. For example, the workers who voted for COTA as their union and then returned to Puerto Rico call once a week. That is how we keep up, and they keep up."

## N.J. farm worker: 'we are invisible'

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — Felipe Velez has been coming to the Glassboro, New Jersey, area for 37 years to work as a farm worker. Each spring he migrates from Caguas, Puerto Rico, in the hope that he will be able to work enough to pay his costs and make a little extra for his family.

Velez is forced to leave Puerto Rico because there are few jobs there and almost none for people who want to farm. Small farmers have been driven off the land, and Puerto Rico has gone from an island that



Puerto Rican migrant farm workers in fields in New Jersey. Angel Domínguez (inset) is organizing solidarity with farm workers.

I asked Domínguez about the working conditions of farm workers. He replied that "farm workers get up at about 5 a.m. to have something to eat, then go to the fields and work until dark. Most farmers give half an hour for lunch. When the weather is good, workers pick seven days a week, eight, ten, or twelve hours a day, with no overtime pay at all. When the weather is bad, there is no work and no pay.

"The work is damaging to your body," he said "because you are stooped over eight hours or more a day. There is no water for drinking or washing in the fields. It is impossible to wash off dangerous pesticide residues without leaving work, an offense punishable by suspension or firing. Farm workers are forced to defecate in the fields, which is unhealthy and undignified," he said.

Most farm workers work for minimum wage or less. In the blueberry and strawberry industries, because of the existence of child labor and because of difficult piece rates, very few workers make minimum wage.

The housing that workers live in is very bad. "Some farm workers live in converted chicken coops because New Jersey farmers

used to raise chickens a lot around here," Domínguez reported. "There are no phones and usually no hot water," he continued. Farmers are not allowed to charge rent to farm workers by law, but their foremen or crew leaders charge \$50 a week for food.

"Now they are trying something new," he added. "Farmers in southern New Jersey are trying to save themselves even the small amount they pay to support workers living on their farms, by hiring 'day haulers,' — workers from the cities. There are a lot of children that come from the cities and work in the fields. About 5,000 farm workers are bused from Philadelphia every day during the growing season. We are going to Philadelphia this winter to talk to these people, to organize them if we can."

Domínguez finished the interview by saying that they needed support committees in the cities. He also said that more people should visit the fields during the summer. He especially wanted union people to come and show solidarity.

Anyone who wants more information, or would like to make a contribution to help the organizing drive, should send it to: P.O. Box 458, 32 E. High St., Glassboro, N.J. 08028.

## 300 hear Salvadoran unionist in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH — Nearly 300 trade unionists heard Francisco Acosta, FENASTRAS representative to the United States and Canada, speak in this area. FENASTRAS is a labor federation representing thousands of workers in El Salvador. Acosta's visit was part of an East Coast tour of union leaders from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.

About 60 people, including many union officials and staff members, attended a labor breakfast for Acosta November 8. They included members of steel, mine, auto, clothing, electrical, hospital, electronic, service, bakery, federal employees', teachers', and glassworkers' unions. Members of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Mon Valley Unemployed Committee, the ACLU, and the Tri-State Conference of Steel also attended.

Several officials had attended the AFL-CIO convention in Anaheim, California, where the AFL-CIO's policy on Central America had been debated. Acosta saluted those union leaders who had opposed U.S. policy in Central America.

Acosta said the presence of officers of the International Association of Machinists

at FENASTRAS's convention in El Salvador last year prevented the Duarte regime from breaking it up. It was the first convention FENASTRAS had been able to hold in four years. This year, Acosta reported, 25 U.S. trade unionists will be attending the convention.

Henry Dropkin, International vice-president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, stated that his union supported the workers in El Salvador.

Russell Gibbons, editor of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) magazine *Steeltor*, attended the breakfast.

Acosta spoke to a meeting of 40 people that evening at the USWA Local 1256 union hall in Duquesne. The meeting was hosted by local President Mike Bilscik. Irene Thomas, president of the area Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 2924, also spoke.

The following day, Acosta addressed 100 members of the Teamsters Local 261 retirees' club in New Castle, Pennsylvania. One woman asked whether Acosta's union

produced its own food to an importer of food. Its producers must go to the U.S. mainland to produce the food that will in part be exported to Puerto Rico.

"I have been coming here 37 years to pick apples, peaches, sweet potatoes, eggplants, and tomatoes," reported Velez, "and I have worked on many farms in New Jersey." He continued, "I have to pay for my fare from Puerto Rico, and when I get here in March, I have to hope that I can work right off. Sometimes, when the weather is bad, you see many poor people from

my island living in the streets, in ditches, and in doorways, waiting for the spring. The weather is cold, and we don't have clothes to keep us warm, or places to stay.

Sometimes, when we first get here, we have to live on air," he added. "Then when we work, it's from sunup to when we can't see in the evening. It's seven days a week, depending on the weather. If it rains, or is too cold or too dry, we don't work, and if we don't work, we don't get paid. No work, no pay," Velez said that "when we do work, there are no benefits, no protection."

Velez hurt his back trying to pick up a bushel of cucumbers. He got hurt on the Levin Farm, and they won't sign the papers so he can be covered by workmen's compensation insurance.

"Right now I'm living off \$80 in food stamps," Velez said.

He is staying at a house rented by organizers of CATA (Agricultural Workers Support Committee). Velez said he would have had to live in the streets if he had not been able to find CATA.

"It's hard to be my age and to be at the mercy of a country that doesn't understand me or give a damn about me or my problems. I gave 37 years of my life to help produce what everybody else eats, and I have nothing. I have to leave my family for six months each year, and I go back with nothing. I can't collect unemployment because I have not worked enough. If I can get workmen's comp, it will take five or six months to get it — if I get it.

"Puerto Rican workers have no rights here, and because we are here only part of the year, we are invisible. Help from different parts of the government takes too long. We are gone before the benefits come in. As long as you are young, you can make out, but when you are too old to bend down to pick the tomatoes, but too young to retire, what can you do?"



## U.S. targets Libya's Qaddafi

Add the North African country of Libya to the growing list of nations that the U.S. government openly targets for assassinations and other terrorist attacks.

In this case, the admission followed the leaking of documents showing that Washington had approved covert operations against the Libyan government headed by Muammar el-Qaddafi.

According to a 1984 CIA document, which is the basis for the covert operation, Washington hopes that "disaffected elements in the [Libyan] military could be spurred to assassination attempts or to cooperate with the exiles against Qaddafi."

Reactionary Libyan exiles are to be used for terrorist actions. "The exile groups, if supported to a substantial degree, could soon begin an intermittent campaign of sabotage and violence," the document promises.

The CIA plan expresses hope that other governments will join with Washington to launch a "broad program ... combining political, economic, and paramilitary action" against Libya.

Qaddafi came to power in 1969, when nationalist army officers led a revolt against a corrupt, imperialist-dominated monarchy. The Qaddafi government abolished the monarchy, forced the U.S. and British governments to give up their military bases in Libya, nationalized the oil

industry, and instituted needed social reforms. Qaddafi opposed U.S. domination in North Africa and the Middle East.

Some in the U.S. government think the plan to eliminate Qaddafi is unrealistic. One State Department study warned that the plan "fails to give sufficient weight to Qaddafi's enduring popularity."

The Reagan administration made it clear that the U.S. operation against Libya would continue, despite exposure. "We went ahead with the world's most open covert operation against Nicaragua," one official boasted. Bipartisan committees of the House and Senate reportedly endorsed the terrorist operations.

"I think this is a serious violation of the law perpetrated by the American president," Qaddafi responded November 7. "And I think he [Reagan] should be tried according to American law."

For years, Qaddafi has been the target of a frenzied campaign that portrays him as a crazed terrorist. In 1981, for instance, the U.S. government dreamed up a Libyan hit squad that was supposedly about to assassinate Reagan.

The shouting about Libyan terrorism is cover for the very real hit squads organized by Washington with orders to do away with the Qaddafi government.

## Demand justice for Alex Odeh

The killers of Alex Odeh are still free.

Odeh was the West Coast director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. He was murdered when a bomb exploded at the ADC offices in Santa Ana, California, October 11.

The murder was hailed by Irv Rubin, head of the racist Jewish Defense League — JDL. "I have no tears for Mr. Odeh," said Rubin. "He got exactly what he deserved."

The FBI has publicly named the JDL "the possible responsible group" for the killing.

But the killers have not been apprehended.

The murder of Alex Odeh was not an isolated incident.

David Habib, chairman of the Greater Los Angeles chapter of the anti-discrimination committee, pointed out that the killing "is just the most recent and heinous in a

series of acts of terror and intimidation" against Arab-Americans. The attacks, he said, "have as their purpose a concerted attempt to silence our community on issues of major significance."

The U.S. government and the U.S. capitalist media scream for quick and extreme action against those they call terrorists — a term they apply to every liberation fighter in the world.

But when the victims of terrorism are Arabs, Blacks, or other oppressed people, the U.S. government is never in a hurry to catch the perpetrators — unless they feel pressured to do so by public demand.

All supporters of democratic rights should make their voices heard demanding that the government act now to bring the murderers of Alex Odeh to justice.

## British out of Ireland

The November 15 agreement between the British and Irish governments has been hailed by the U.S. government and the big-business press here as a step toward peace in Northern Ireland. (See front-page story.)

The agreement, however, has nothing to do with peace.

No agreement that accepts British rule over a part of Ireland can lead to peace. It is precisely the British presence in Ireland that causes political instability, social injustice, and violence there.

The British government is not now and has never been a force for peace in Northern Ireland.

It is an imperialist power that uses brutal repression to maintain its control over another nation. It has done so for hundreds of years.

The British government can no more bring peace to Northern Ireland than the U.S. government can bring peace to Central America. And for the same reason — they are both imperialist powers. Their military forces exist solely to maintain their political and economic domination over other countries.

This agreement comes at a time when support for Sinn

Féin, which is leading the struggle for an independent and united Ireland, is growing. The British government, by giving the Dublin government a symbolic role in its rule of Northern Ireland, is attempting to fortify colonial rule.

Martin McGuinness, a leader of Sinn Féin, denounced the talks leading to the November 15 agreement. He pointed to the real road for peace in Northern Ireland. He said, "The only talks that will ever have any relevance and hope for Ireland will be talks that involve the Republican Movement, talks with two items on the agenda — namely, the disengagement of Britain from our country and self-determination for the Irish people."

Working people in this country should stand with our Irish brothers and sisters in their fight for a united, independent Ireland.

We should join in protests against British repression in Ireland and against Washington's support to British colonial rule. That means opposing the proposed British-U.S. agreement that would make it possible to extradite Irish freedom fighters to Britain.



British troops in Northern Ireland

## Lincoln's state of emergency in U.S. Civil War

BY STEVE MARSHALL

When Nicaragua's government renewed a state of emergency in that country last month, President Reagan led a chorus of Democratic and Republican party politicians in complaining about the Sandinistas' supposed attack on democracy.

But the Nicaraguan decree was not the first time a revolutionary government has taken emergency measures to defend itself against a violent, reactionary minority that claimed the "democratic right" to wage a bloody counter-revolution.

The United States government itself set a sweeping precedent more than a century ago, in the Civil War of 1861-65, when President Lincoln imposed a stringent state of emergency.

When the Southern planters launched their war to extend slavery, Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus. No longer had the government any legal obligation

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to provide those it arrested with specific charges, formal indictment, or public trial. That keystone of the Bill of Rights was replaced with military rule, first along the march routes of southbound Union soldiers and then across the land.

Maryland's state legislators were the first to test Lincoln's resolve. They opened a discussion on secession from the Union, so federal troops dissolved the assembly and jailed its leaders.

That was just the beginning. Fifteen thousand Confederate sympathizers were rounded up and held without charges, bail, or trial. When the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a slaveowner named Roger Taney, ruled Lincoln's actions illegal, he was ignored.

Proslavery newspapers were shut down, their vendors arrested, and their editors thrown in jail. Antiwar meetings were broken up, and preachers who railed against the military draft were chased from their pulpits.

Lincoln's generals in Ohio arrested Clement Vallandigham, a Democratic Party congressman who voiced agreement with the slaveowners' cause. He was later deported to the South.

These measures violated the U.S. Constitution. They were designed to crack down on the enemy. A "peace party" in the North could only be the political extension of Jefferson Davis' racist dictatorship in the South.

The Northern supporters of the Confederacy, called Copperheads, wanted a "dialogue" with the Confederates.

But most workers and farmers wanted a victory, not a dialogue. They were at war with the slavemasters and their murderous plantation overseers.

The Confederate aggression was aided by the efforts of Northern fifth columnists to sabotage the Union's war effort. Copperheads murdered abolitionists, attacked troops, set fire to cities, and plotted bank robberies, bombings, and piracy.

In New York City, a Copperhead stronghold, protests over the 1863 draft law turned into a terrorist rampage against Blacks and immigrants.

A more accurate gauge of the farmers' and workers' attitude toward the war was the growth in reenlistments in 1864 and the decisive vote for Lincoln in the November elections. Both were reflections of the momentum the revolutionary war to crush the slaveowners had gained following the passage of the Homestead Act and the emancipation proclamations.

In letters they wrote home, soldiers at the front blasted Copperheads and fainthearts. They cautioned their sisters against going out with them, advocated drafting them, and volunteered to return home to enforce Lincoln's state of emergency.

As they prepared their victorious march to the sea, the young farmers of Sherman's army cast their votes for Lincoln — by a majority of 86 percent.

The analogy between the U.S. state of emergency in the 19th century and the Nicaraguan measures today is a limited one.

Abraham Lincoln was a former railroad lawyer, a leader of the capitalist Republican Party, and the representative of the rising industrial capitalist class. Their victory over the slavocracy, followed by their reconstruction of the South, was also in the interests of workers and farmers. At the same time, they were the last progressive act of the U.S. capitalist class.

The Nicaraguan government, on the other hand, is a government of the workers and farmers and defends their interests against those of the capitalist exploiters.

Where Lincoln faced a civil war, Nicaraguans face a mercenary army organized and financed by a foreign aggressor — Washington.

But one principle holds true in both struggles, and that is the right and obligation of the revolution to survive. In exercising that right, the revolutionary government in Nicaragua enjoys the popular support of the workers and peasants.



# Catholic bishops: women's lives aren't worth much

The country's Roman Catholic bishops have decided to adopt a new image in the battle against women's right to abortion.

Meeting in Washington, D.C., November 14, the bishops voted to project what they call a "consistent ethic of life." The plan calls for presenting abortion as a social



## WOMEN IN REVOLT

Pat Grogan

evil like nuclear war, poverty, capital punishment, racism, and discrimination.

So, their efforts to reshackle women with barbaric laws that prevent us from exercising this most basic right to control our bodies is painted up as part of a progressive struggle against war, racism, and poverty. And they do this in the name of the "intrinsic dignity of human life."

Women's lives, evidently, have a very small measure of intrinsic dignity apart from childbearing functions. And the thousands of women who were maimed and the hundreds who died each year when abortion was illegal don't count for much either.

The Catholic church hierarchy's stock in trade is to

pose as champions of the poor and oppressed, while working with all their might against concrete struggles for justice. This is a new variation on an old theme.

The bishops are trying to make their backward campaign against women's rights more acceptable to the millions of working people, who in their majority support legal abortion and women's equality.

The bishops dare to call their campaign to deny women full humanity a "new civil rights movement."

They try to cloak themselves in the moral authority of the mass anti-apartheid movement and the deep opposition to Washington's bloody aggression in Central America.

But abortion is not a social wrong, it is a woman's most basic right — a right without which we can never have equality or freedom.

It is the fight for women's rights, not the bishops' reactionary stand, that is kindred to the fight against apartheid, discrimination, racism, and Washington's wars. And the fight for women's equality and against racist discrimination immeasurably strengthen the capacity of all working people to stand up to the employers' offensive against the living standards and rights of working people.

About a year ago, New York's Cardinal John O'Connor was on a big campaign against abortion rights along the same lines as that approved by the bishops last week.

There is a big difference, however.

A year ago, these lies went unanswered. Organized women's rights groups had virtually shut down, turning themselves into little more than vote-getting machines for

Democratic Party candidates Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro. Women's rights were not defended in the face of a vicious campaign branding women as murderers. The concerted attacks on abortion rights on the part of the church hierarchy, right-wing fundamentalists, big-business politicians, and the government went unanswered.

This has changed. Hardly a week goes by without a picket line, rally, forum, or press conference in defense of abortion rights. Women's rights supporters are organizing to defend clinics. Activists are working to defeat antiabortion referenda that would further cut off state funding for Medicaid abortions and restrict access to abortion for young women. Black women and Latinas are becoming involved in the fight. The Coalition of Labor Union Women and other union organizations are starting to take up defense of abortion rights. Broad coalitions are being built. Young women and men on the campuses are starting to organize.

For the first time in years, dozens of abortion rights actions are planned for January 22 — the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* that made abortion a woman's constitutional right.

The National Organization for Women has called for massive turnouts at abortion rights rallies on March 9 — International Women's Day — in Washington, D.C., and on March 16 in Los Angeles. These actions have the potential to mobilize and deepen support for safe, legal abortion, and to help beat back the attacks on women's rights.

## 'U.S. sanctions would shorten life of apartheid'

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

TOLEDO, Ohio — Many unions are supporting economic and other sanctions against South Africa, including the divestment from banks and corporations that do business there.

Reagan claims that economic sanctions hurt South African Black workers by creating more unemployment.

### AS I SEE IT

This is not the view of the oppressed South African majority, and their leading organizations.

The African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) have repeatedly urged international sanctions and divestment despite the consequences for Black workers.

Speaking in Detroit in September this year, SACTU leader Tozamile Botha appealed for "unity in action" of all those forces that oppose apartheid, especially from trade unions. He urged the formation of labor committees against apartheid and suggested that they could organize labor solidarity with the South African trade unions. The committees could agitate for the withdrawal of U.S. corporations and banks from South Africa.

In 1963 then-ANC president Albert Lutuli appealed to the people of Britain for help. He referred to a United Nations resolution that "called on all states to break off diplomatic relations, or refrain from establishing them; close their ports to all vessels flying the South African flag; boycott all South African goods, including arms and ammunition to South Africa; and refuse landing facilities to South African aircraft."

This call was repeated by jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela and by ANC President Oliver Tambo. At a Greater London Council Anti-racist Day meeting on March 21, 1984, Tambo said, "We have made this call in the knowledge that were sanctions to be imposed this

would immeasurably shorten the life span of apartheid and reduce the loss of life that must necessarily accompany a struggle against it. . . . Your efforts towards ending collaboration with the apartheid regime form a vital part of our struggle to build a nonracial, unitary, and democratic South Africa."

An article in the September issue of *Sechaba*, the monthly magazine of the ANC (available from Sechaba Publications, P.O. Box 38, 28 Penton St., London N1 9PR, England, \$12 for one year) by Neva Makgetla sheds more light on the importance of the sanctions proposal.

She points out that international investment, and the trade stemming from it, is crucial to the survival of the apartheid regime. U.S. and other big corporations invest in the most advanced fields of the economy, such as the arms industry. The white regime's army has to be highly mechanized and mobile to assault the Black population across South Africa and to carry out raids into Angola and other countries. This requires technologically advanced weaponry and computers. Apartheid is dependent on such goods coming from the United States, Britain, France, and Israel.

Collaboration between local industry and the regime is also important. "In the late 1970s," adds Makgetla, "because of their strategic importance, the minority regime designated the local plants of the U.S. auto companies, General Motors and Ford, plus an unknown number of other foreign subsidiaries, as 'National Key Points' which it would administer directly in case of revolution. GM encouraged its white personnel to join the 'GM Commando' to guard its plant in an 'emergency situation.'"

Here are some examples of U.S.-apartheid collaboration:

- Nuclear energy. The original reactors were supplied in 1961 by the U.S. firm Allis Chalmers and later by the U.S. government's "Atoms for Peace" program.
- Oil production and refining. Ninety percent of

South Africa's petroleum needs are imported. Exxon, Mobil, and Caltex control 45 percent of the oil market with investments totaling \$800 million. The U.S. firm, Fluor, also built a \$6 million oil-from-coal plant there.

- Auto and truck production. GM and Ford provide a significant portion of the market and have investments of over \$370 million. Military vehicles are produced there to get around the UN ban on arms sales to the regime.

- Mining. U.S. investors and firms have a 25 percent stake in all foreign investment in this arena, including 33 percent in South African gold mining. Giants like Union Carbide, Phelps Dodge, Kennecott Copper, and U.S. Steel reap several million dollars a year in profits.

- Electrical, electronic, and computer industries. IBM, Sperry Rand, Control Data, Honeywell, and others supply the computers to implement the pass laws, control migrant workers, and run weapons systems. They control 79 percent of the computer market, with hundreds of installations.

- Military. Between 1973 and 1979 the military budget tripled to \$2.3 billion with two-thirds of this budget allocated for the purchase of weapons from abroad.

The CIA has been instrumental in aiding the U.S. firms such as Olin Corp. and Space Research Corp. in reaping millions in profits from illegal sales to Pretoria.

Today British firms account for about 10 percent of total Black employment, and U.S. firms 3 percent. The employment picture is further rounded out when we consider that 50 percent of the Black population forced to live in the "homelands" are unemployed, and 25 percent of urban Blacks are unemployed.

Risking death to win their liberation, it is easy to understand why Blacks are willing to chance even higher unemployment resulting from sanctions in order to weaken the racist regime.

Mark Friedman works at American Motors, Jeep in Toledo. He's a member of United Auto Workers Local 12.

## LETTERS

### Rosario Murillo

I was very impressed by the article on sister Rosario Murillo de Ortega that appeared in the November 8 issue of the *Militant*. Sister Rosario is indeed one to be proud of and I made it my business to see her and her husband on the Donahue program you mentioned.

I am the cochair of a study group here in this institution and we have been gathering as much information as we can on Nicaragua and the different leaders of the revolution.

We have Margaret Randall's *Sandino's Daughters* and *Inside the Nicaraguan Revolution: The story of Doris Tijerino* which makes us well aware of the heroic role of the women there.

We would like to have information on Rosario Murillo so that we may include her biographical information in our collection as well

as that of her husband.

We have no way of getting the necessary cost to you. Being here in prison limits us very much, as you know.

A prisoner  
Vienna, Illinois.

### Drop embargo

"Soundoff," a "non-scientific reader-opinion" poll in the *Detroit Free Press*, asked if the embargo against Nicaragua should be dropped. Based on 224 calls, the result was 78 percent in favor of ending the embargo, 22 percent in favor of continuing.

S.W.  
Detroit, Michigan

### 'Krush Groove'

An article appeared in the November 6 *New York Times* headlined "On Long Island, Fights Follow a Film on Rap Music."

This article is part of a racist campaign whipped up by the local New York papers against Blacks following several incidents of racial violence at theaters on Long Island showing the film *Krush Groove*.

Though *Krush Groove* contains no violence, or violent message, its subject matter — that of young Black people going into the music industry and becoming successful recording artists — is said by the press to be inflammatory.

The *Times* says that the "words of rap [music] tend to be boastful, though not particularly suggestive of either sex or violence. But listening to and identifying with such music, according to Thomas Pettigrew, a social psychologist at the University of California at Santa Cruz, can inspire 'a state of generalized arousal. It can whip people up.'"

But the real cause of the racist

violence is that *Krush Groove* is playing in white neighborhoods and attracts a largely Black audience. Said one racist white youth, "It is attracting a black crowd to a white town. That means trouble, especially because they come out of the movie all psyched up."

Another white youth said that Blacks coming out of the movie, "seemed defensive and challenging, like they were saying 'don't mess with us.'"

Black youth taking pride in their music and their popular stars in a white neighborhood was intolerable to the racist thugs of these Long Island towns. That is what sparked the attacks.

The violence surrounding *Krush Groove* is clearly not as the racist *Times* article would claim — that Black rap music causes violence. Working people should deplore these attacks on the rights of Blacks to enjoy any movie they

like, in whatever neighborhood; and condemn the *Times* characterization of Black music and culture as rabble-rousing and violence-producing.

Louis Josephson  
New York, New York

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.



## 'The world must hear our story'

### Interview with Kanak independence fighter Susanna Ounei



Susanna Ounei at student anti-apartheid rally in Berkeley, California. Ounei toured 20 U.S. and Canadian cities to win support for the Kanak people of South Pacific island of New Caledonia in their struggle to win independence from French colonial rule.

Susanna Ounei is a representative of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front. FLNKS is the national, pro-independence coalition of the Kanaks — the oppressed indigenous people of the French-ruled South Pacific island of New Caledonia.

Ounei recently completed a tour of 20 North American cities to publicize the Kanak independence fight and to build solidarity. The following interview was obtained by *Militant* staff writer Pat Grogan on November 1, just before Ounei's return to New Caledonia.

*Question. What have you accomplished in your tour?*

*Answer.* Well, it was very positive politically. First of all, now everybody knows where New Caledonia is. People knew very little about our struggle and our people. Not only among the people as a whole, but even among the radical activists. It is so important for us that people throughout the world know our story.

And when they heard the story, they were inspired, especially the Black people, the Puerto Rican, the Indian people. And

all the people fighting apartheid. Because I think what really touched them is that we are a small people that just keeps fighting.

For many people, it was from Mel Mason that they first heard of our struggle. [Mel Mason, the 1984 presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, met Ounei at a convention of the Socialist Action League of New Zealand in December 1984.]

When he came back from New Zealand, he brought the story of our people with him. On my tour, I would meet people, and they would tell me what Mel had told them. "Do you know," he would tell people, "there are Black people in New Caledonia. And they are fighting."

Everywhere I had great support, from many organizations, in 20 cities. Black groups, students, churches, unions. So now we have relations with many groups. Some people told me, "Call me collect if anything happens." Now we have to organize this international support.

#### Puerto Rican independence fight

*Q. What do you think are the important things you learned on the tour?*

*A.* For us, the United States is very, very far away. What's really been important is getting to know the American people.

In Chicago, I met a woman whose two daughters — independence fighters — were condemned by the Puerto Rican government to 90 years in jail. I was shocked to learn this. There are many similarities. The Puerto Rican people don't want to be in the U.S. army, be drafted to fight in the U.S. wars, like in Vietnam.

At home, our young are supposed to go to France every year for their military service. So the young Kanaks are boycotting the French army. It is a very big thing. So, now, all of our young are searched for by the army, both for political reasons, and to go after them for evading military service.

#### Harlem of Nouméa

And what I was really impressed by was how the Black people were so strong in their support for our struggle. It was very important for me to see how the people here suffer and fight, too. Here, if you are Black, you can just get shot for nothing — and get sent to jail.

I was very proud to speak at a meeting in Harlem. We have a place, Pirre Lanquette, in the city of Nouméa, and Nouméa is almost all white. Pirre Lanquette is where the Black people stay. We call it the Harlem of Nouméa. Harlem is a symbol for us Black people, a symbol of racism and the struggle against it.

And so, it is very important for us to link up our struggle, to build international ties.

And to let my people know that when we fight for our cause, when we call for support, there are many here who will answer, who are really behind our cause.

#### American Indian people

*Q. You were able to meet with American Indian people here.*

*A.* Yes, I learned a lot from the Indian people. Because their struggle is mine. It is so similar. Even many of the customs and the stories.

For the Indian people, like us, the prime problem is to get back their land. When I went to Anishinabe [the Anishinabe Nation on the White Earth Chippewa Reservation in Minnesota], they told me how they had a treaty that gave them 300,000 acres. And there's nothing of that. They gave them only 58,000 acres — for 50,000 people.

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## Labor unites behind Watsonville strike

BY LINDA JOYCE

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — "We are going to show what united labor can do," Walter Johnson, president of the San Francisco Central Labor Council, told over 1,000 people at a November 10 rally here in support of Teamsters Local 912's striking cannery workers.

Johnson announced that a labor rally in support of the cannery workers — who have been on strike since September 9 — would be called by the central labor council in early December. The rally will be held in San Francisco's Union Square. He said the rally would send a holiday message from the labor movement of the Bay Area.

Hundreds of strikers jumped to their feet, chanting, "Huelga. Huelga!" (Strike!), which reverberated throughout the hall. A driving rainstorm did not dampen the enthusiasm of the rally, which was moved indoors.

Chuck Mack, head of the United Brotherhood of Teamsters Joint Council 7, representing 30 locals and 30,000 Teamsters in Northern California, chaired the rally, which was conducted in English and Spanish.

"This rally is to show united labor's support for Teamsters Local 912. We are organizing all over California to go after Watsonville Canning and Richard Shaw Inc. Even with the bad weather, they are going to know the numbers of people who came out today. This is just the beginning — it's a signal that all labor in California will come down on them if they don't negotiate."

This message was echoed by a broad range of labor leaders representing several Teamsters locals around the state, the central labor councils of four surrounding counties, and several other unions.

In addition, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Mexican-American Political Association (MAPA) expressed solidarity.

Representatives of the union strike committee thanked the supporters who had come out for the rally. One, Chabelo Moreno, brought a huge roar from the crowd when he explained: "We are not alone in this strike. We are going to win because we are right, because we are united."

Dick Groulx, head of the Alameda Central Labor Council, brought the support of his 60,000 members from 140 AFL-CIO

unions. "I have on an AFL-CIO jacket and a Teamsters hat today," he said, "both of which I proudly wear."

These sentiments symbolize the unity that has been inspired by this strike. Chuck Mack read many letters of support from U.S. senators, other politicians, and a range of organizations and unions. He also noted donations of money totaling thousands of dollars, including one contribution from Teamsters Local 670 in Oregon. He announced that a downtown Watsonville medical clinic was offering its services to strikers regardless of ability to pay.

Solidarity committees have sprung up all over the Bay Area. Shirve Teng, a member of the district council of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, spoke

in the name of the Northern California Watsonville Strike Support Committee.

"Cannery workers, garment workers, restaurant workers are at the bottom, and without our unions we don't have protection," she said. "When we rise to fight, the rest of society rises with us."

Money was collected for court costs of arrested and jailed strikers. Margarita Martínez, a member of Local 912, explained, "These are donations for those in jail. Today it's them, tomorrow it may be us. We've suffered terrible discrimination in this strike — the cops are abusing us. It is an honor to be a Teamster for a better life. The best Christmas gift for us will be to win this strike."

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## Gov't paints Ariz. sanctuary workers as 'smuggling ring'

BY BARBARA GREENWAY

PHOENIX — "Alien-smuggling conspiracy," "three-tiered criminal enterprise," "the Nogales connection." These were the terms most frequently used by chief prosecutor Donald Reno in the trial of 11 sanctuary workers that began November 15 in Tucson, Arizona.

Reno said the "generals" of the smuggling ring were the Rev. John Fife and James Corbett. Fife is the pastor of Tucson's Southside Presbyterian Church. On March 24, 1982, Corbett and Fife led the congregation in publicly declaring their church a sanctuary for refugees fleeing from repression in El Salvador and Guatemala. They are considered the founders of the sanctuary movement, which has since been joined by some 270 churches across the country.

Other "generals," according to Reno, are Philip Willis-Conger, director of the Tucson Ecumenical Council's Refugee Task Force, and Sister Darlene Nicgorski, a nun who taught in Guatemala until 1980 when her pastor was killed and she returned to work on behalf of Central American refugees in the United States.

Underneath this top echelon, according to the lurid criminal picture the prosecutor is painting, are two other tiers: those who

ran the so-called smuggling and transportation operations and those who operated "staging" areas and "safe houses." These include two Roman Catholic churches in the border sister cities of Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, in Mexico which Reno repeatedly called the "Nogales connection."

U.S. District Judge Earl Carroll denied defense motions for a mistrial despite the use of inflammatory characterizations like "Nogales connection" in Reno's attempt to conjure up images of drug-dealing and smuggling.

Even before the jury was sworn in, it was clear that the government and the presiding judge in the case are anything but neutral.

Examples of Judge Carroll's bias abound. He has rejected all defense motions to dismiss charges against the sanctuary workers, who face more than 40 misdemeanor and felony counts of "transporting and harboring illegal aliens."

Judge Carroll granted a series of pretrial government motions aimed at preventing the sanctuary workers from conducting a defense.

He barred the defense from presenting any evidence relating to conditions in Cen-

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